THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JANUARY 13, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW

newindianexpress.com

facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress

instagram.com/newindianexpress

YOUTH POWER WILL MAKE INDIA A DEVELOPED COUNTRY BY 2047: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India's young population will power the country's rise towards becoming a developed nation

'CITIZENS' HELP NECESSARY TO REACH BIG GOALS'

Modi said it was time for a quantum leap. "Big targets have to be set for a country to march forward. This is what today's India is doing," he said, adding the government alone cannot drive the country forward and achieving ambitious goals requires participation of every citizen. Hosting the Olympics in the next decade is one of the goals, he said | P11

YOUTH ARE OWNERS OF VIKSIT BHARAT: PM

- Modi said he has full confidence the youth will realise 'Viksit Bharat' dream by 2047. He said the ownership in 'Viksit Bharat' is theirs too
- He was addressing the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue in Delhi to mark Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. "Swami Vivekananda said youth will find solutions to all problems," he said

$10 trillion

WILL BE THE SIZE OF INDIA'S ECONOMY BY THE NEXT DECADE: MODI

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

EAM to attend Trump's inauguration

Jaishankar expected to have a short call with the new US President, Secretary of State

JAYANTH JACOB @New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** will be representing India at the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Sunday. According to sources, Jaishankar is likely to have a short call on with Trump as well as Marco Rubio, the incoming Secretary of State. The meetings are expected to set the tone for India-US relations under the Trump administration.

India-US relations have traditionally enjoyed bipartisan political support. However, Trump's inauguration comes amid concerns over trade disruptions due to his hawkish tariff policies. Trump has said he will strive to boost American manufacturing and cut down on international engagements.

Traditionally, US Presidential inaugurations are a low-key affair. However, Trump has extended invitations to leaders from a clutch of select countries including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. For India, the invitation was for Jaishankar.

"EAM will also have meetings with representatives of the incoming Administration, as also some other dignitaries visiting the US on that occasion," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

While bilateral ties under the outgoing Joe Biden administration saw improvement, such as the successful Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies, political ties were strained following Gurpatwant Singh Pannun murder plot.

Trump's tariff discussions and the policy of bringing manufacturing back to the US are raising concerns in India but New Delhi is optimistic about smoother bilateral relations. This confidence is based on the strong foundation of India-US ties and the personal rapport between Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to Jaishankar, India is better equipped to deal with these global disruptions. Speaking in Sydney last November, he had said: "There was already a reordering of supply chains, and this is likely to accelerate following the US election results. While some disruption may occur, India sees it as an opportunity."

ISRO to reassess strategy after space docking trial put on hold, yet again

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

WHAT looked like an inevitable achievement in the early hours of Sunday, was put on hold by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientists, who are closely observing and controlling the two spacecraft of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission.

After bringing the two spacecraft -- SDX01 and SDX02 -- as close to 230 metres on Saturday evening, at 3.11am Sunday, the ISRO team posted on 'X' that the two satellites were close to each other and were spotted from an inter-satellite distance of 105m. Later, at 5.17am, ISRO noted that the Chaser and Target spacecraft were clearly visible 15m apart, and posted, "We are just 50 feet away from an exciting handshake."

The news brought cheer among space science enthusiasts who are hoping for a successful maiden docking mission by ISRO.

A file picture of the two spacecraft, Chaser and Target | EXPRESS

Successful docking

A successful docking is when the two spacecraft lock into each other for easy transfer of supplies, equipment and even astronauts. Before this, the docking of SDX01 and SDX02 was twice postponed on January 7 and January 9

At 6.19am, the ISRO team shared the news that the two SpaDeX satellites had been put on hold position at 15m, along with photographs of the craft clearly visible at close range.

However, at 7.06am, the scientists decided to put on hold the docking exercise until further analysis. They said they were successful in bringing the spacecraft just 3m from each other. However, the scientists did not divulge the reason for moving the spacecraft away from each other to a 'safer distance', after they were close to complete the docking experiment, which is crucial for future Gaganyaan and Bharatiya Antariksh missions.

ISRO took to X to say: "A trial attempt to reach upto 3m from 15m is done. Moving back the spacecraft to safer distance. The docking will be done after analysing data further." P7

BORDER TENSIONS

B'desh conveys 'deep concern' to Indian envoy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

BANGLADESH on Sunday summoned India's High Commissioner in Dhaka and expressed its "deep concern" over the recent border tensions.

Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma was summoned after Dhaka accused New Delhi of violating a bilateral agreement by attempting to construct fences at five locations along the India-Bangladesh border.

"Foreign Secretary Ambassador Md Jashim Uddin today expressed deep concern of Government of Bangladesh to the High Commissioner of India Pranay Verma at his office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the recent activities of the Border Security Force (BSF) of India along the Bangladesh-India border," the Bangladesh foreign ministry said. The meeting lasted 45 minutes, sources said.

"We have an understanding with regard to fencing the border for security. BSF and BGB have been in communication. We expect understandings will be implemented and there will be cooperative approach to combatting crime," Verma said.

The tensions come as the government says there has been a rise in the number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh entering India since the start of the political crisis there.

Leader of Opposition in Assembly R Ashoka visits the spot where miscreants inflicted injuries on the udders of three cows in Cottonpet in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

CM assures action

CM Siddaramaiah said cattle abuse is a crime and perpetrators would be punished. He was speaking to the media at Hoovina Hadagali in Vijayanagara district after a mass marriage function | P6

Tension flares after miscreants cut udders of 3 cows in Cottonpet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TENSION flared up in the Cottonpet area in Bengaluru West on Sunday morning after unidentified miscreants inflicted injuries on the udders of three cows on Pension Mohalla Road behind Vinayaka Theatre. A large number of people gathered as the news spread, leading to tension.

The police said the incident came to light early on Sunday morning when a local resident noticed a pool of blood at the place where the cows were tied to a post on the roadside. He found injuries on the udders of three cows and alerted the cow owner, Karna, who stays 500 metres away from the spot.

Karna immediately informed a veterinary doctor and also called the police. The police visited the spot, recorded statements. Based on Karna's complaint, a case was registered under Section 325 (mischief by killing or maiming animals) of BNS and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

A senior police officer said that over six cows were tied on the roadside and of them, three had injuries. "While two cows had slash marks on their udder, the other's udder was mutilated. It is suspected that the accused used a blade to inflict injuries," he said. The police are analysing CCTV footage and are said to be questioning some suspects.

The incident sparked outrage among local residents, while right wing activists rushed to the spot and protested. Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan and others visited the site and spoke to Karna. The police had a tough time managing the crowd. A Karnataka State Reserve Police platoon was deployed. P6

EXPRESS READ

Devajit Saikia is new BCCI secretary

Mumbai: Devajit Saikia and Prabhtej Singh Bhatia were elected unopposed as new secretary and treasurer, respectively, of Board of Control for Cricket in India on Sunday. They were elected unopposed after being the only ones to file nomination for the posts vacated by Jay Shah and Ashish Shelar | P13

Security forces kill 5 Maoists in C'garh

Raipur: Five Maoists, including two women, were killed in an encounter in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, about 400 kilometres south of Raipur on Sunday. "After the encounter, the forces recovered five bodies of Naxalites, including two women in uniform," a senior police official said | P12

KUMBH 2025

Where grandeur bumps into spirituality

PARAMITA GHOSH @Prayagraj

AT the ground zero of Kumbh, Malwa's Baba Yashwant Swaraj — goggled, high, and trident-wielding — is having a ball. He says he is "wi-fi Insta famous", and pats the top of his trident on which he is convinced his guru, having shed his material form, sits as a flower. He gets a crowd but after a few minutes it moves on. At every bend in Kumbh, everyone is looking for a spectacle to match the hype.

Saurabh Basu, an advocate at the Allahabad High Court, says that for ages, there has been no business in Allahabad as profitable as the Kumbh. "It was so when it was a Mughal city; now when it's Prayagraj, it gives the riverine economy a boost."

For the 40 crore devotees expected to land in Prayagraj for the Kumbh, said to be the largest congregation anywhere in the world, the main target are the Shahi Snans, the first of which is on January 14 (Makar Sankranti). And there have been early movers, who have already made themselves home in the tent-city. While some seek spiritual enlightenment, others are drawn to the luxury and convenience offered by the Kumbh Mela. Somesh Tripathy, an advertising personnel from Noida, is here for the holy dip. So is Puspendra Singh from nearby Pratapgarh.

Baba Yashwant Swaraj, who claims he is a rage on the internet, at the Kumbh in Prayagraj on Sunday. The mela kicks off on Monday | PARAMITA GHOSH

Judy, a New Yorker, has opted for a ₹3-4 lakh per night tent, complete with yoga facilities and a stunning view of the Sangam. "The moment I saw those cottages I knew I had to be here," she said.

In contrast, the kalpavaasis, or short-term dwellers leading an austere life at the Kumbh, can stay in tents free of charge. "There is convenience at the Kumbh for every class. If God has given you wealth, you stay in luxury tents," says Anand Shukla, a priest from Mumbai, whose father did kalpavaas during Kumbh in the past.

CONTINUED ON: P12

MAHAKUMBH DECODED

Total area **10,000 acres**

Budget **₹75,000 cr**

State's budget **₹54,000 cr**
Centre's budget **₹21,000 cr**

Total Snans **Six** (Jan 13, Jan 14, Jan 29, Feb 3, Feb 12, Feb 26)

Each snan takes off with bathing of saints and seers of **13** different Akharas

13 Akharas divided into 3 categories **Sanyasi, Bairagi and Udaseen**

Total ghats: **41**

Expected footfall on snan days **2 crore**
On Jan 29 snan: **8-10 crore**

SBI
The banker to every Indian
Study abroad seamlessly with SBI Global Ed-Vantage Loan
Loans up to ₹3 cr
Interest rates starting 9.65% p.a.
Nil Security up to ₹50 lakh for select institutions
Disbursement before Visa / i20
Repayment up to 15 years after moratorium
Tax benefit under Section 80(E)
For details, scan QR code
T&C Apply
For assistance, call 1800 1234 | 2100 or visit bank.sbi
Follow us on

GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH

Welcome to the Land of Spiritual Wisdom

॥सर्वसिद्धिप्रदः कुम्भः॥
महाकुम्भ प्रयागराज 2025

Divine-Grand-Digital Mahakumbh of Unity

Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj

13 January - 26 February

Mahakumbh Calling

HOLY DIP DATES

- Paush Purnima - 13th January 2025
- Makar Sankranti - 14th January 2025
- Mauni Amavasya - 29th January 2025
- Basant Panchami - 3rd February 2025
- Maghi Purnima - 12th February 2025
- Maha Shivaratri - 26th February 2025

Scan to Chat

Send 'Hi' to Kumbh Sah'Al'yak No. 8887847135

Kumbh Administration | Emergency Assistance | Hotel and Food | Achievements of UP

mahakumbh_25/ upmahakumbh MahaKumbh_2025 https://kumbh.gov.in/

Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh | UPGovtOfficial CMOUttarpradesh CMOfficeUP

GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH

Sanatan Garv Mahakumbh Parv

Divine-Grand-Digital Mahakumbh of Unity

Get all the Information related to Mahakumbh here

Hassle-free Journey with Digital Facilities

Emergency Assistance

Kumbh Administration

Hotel and Food

Achievements of UP

Scan to Chat

Send 'Hi' to Kumbh Sah'Al'yak No. 8887847135

13 January - 26 February

Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj

mahakumbh_25/ upmahakumbh MahaKumbh_2025 https://kumbh.gov.in/

Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh | UPGovtOfficial CMOUttarpradesh CMOfficeUP

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 13.01.2025 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Dakshinayana
Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Pausha • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Purnima 3.49 am
Nakshatra: Ardra 10.44 am • Moon in Kataka Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 18°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Partly cloudy

Sunrise 06.45 am
Sunset 06.11 pm
Moonrise 05.42 pm
Moonset 06.08 am

Don't sell land in Ramanagara, will turn to gold: DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has some sound realty advice for residents of Ramanagara district: Hold on to your land, it will turn to gold.

Speaking at a public function in Kanakapura on Sunday, he said that Ramanagara district will soon be called Bengaluru South district, following a cabinet decision. The new name will be officially declared after the Central government's nod. Shivakumar advised people not to sell their lands with Bengaluru South district coming into existence, as the value of their land would appreciate.

He said the Siddaramaiah cabinet has decided to rename Ramanagara as Bengaluru South, and the proposal has been sent to Delhi. "The intelligence report is pending from the Union Home ministry. I am going to write a letter to the Union minister and Prime Minister in a couple of days. Then it will be officially announced as Bengaluru South district. Ramanagara will remain the district headquarters," he informed.

"We are from Bengaluru, why should we give up our identity? You cannot imagine what the price of your land will be in future. BJP and JDS leaders are criticising this issue. So why did they(Union minister HD Kumaraswamy) leave their hometown and come here and buy hundreds of acres of land?" he questioned.

"What was the price of land in this area 15-20 years ago? How much is it now? Although I could not give you money directly, I have helped you by getting the price of your property appreciated. Thus, I have brought a change in your life," he claimed.

'White elephant' bus terminal to become shopping complex

Basaveshwara terminal built at cost of Rs 40cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AFTER unsuccessful attempts to convert Basaveshwara Bus Terminal in Peenya, off Tumakuru Road into an electric bus depot, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is now considering leasing the space for commercial purposes, such as a shopping complex, marriage hall, hospital or educational institution. The terminal, which costs the corporation lakhs annually in maintenance, security, water and electricity, has become a financial burden without generating any revenue. It was built at a cost of Rs 40 crore.

An official from the bus corporation recalled that construction of the bus terminal began in 2011 and was operational in 2014. The terminal primarily intended to ease the load on the Kempegowda Bus Terminal by diverting buses heading towards North Karnataka, Tumakuru, Hassan, Chitradurga and other areas to Basaveshwara bus terminal. However, owing to poor patronage, the idea was dropped and the bus terminal has remained empty ever since, he added.

"Over the years, several attempts were made to revive the bus terminal. Plans to use it as a Metro station were also considered but later dropped. Subsequently, a proposal to turn it into an electric bus depot was also shelved, but that didn't take off either," the official said.

On the other hand, efforts to lease the terminal to government institutions have so far yielded no results. "While officials from different institutions inspected the facility, none have confirmed their interests till date," he said.

To address this issue, the KSRTC has now invited applications to convert the terminal into a shopping complex or other commercial establishments, in hopes of generating some revenue for the under-utilised bus terminal.

MELODIOUS CALL

Amid Makar Sankranti celebrations, a man plays his nadaswara alongside his adorned bull on the streets of Malleswaram | ALLEN EGENUSE J

AICCTU: Enforce laws mandating 48-hr work week

Bengaluru: Following remarks by SN Subrahmanyan, chairman of L&T (Larsen & Toubro), advocating for a 90-hour work week, including Sundays, the Karnataka chapter of the All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) strongly condemned the statement. The union called on the government to enforce laws mandating a 48-hour work week, prevented forced overtime, and take necessary actions to safeguard the health, rights, and dignity of workers. The association pointed out that corporations have unlawfully normalised 12-hour work shifts, especially for contract workers. AICCTU referenced India's legally established 8-hour workday, introduced through the 1946 Amendment to the Factories Act of 1934. They emphasised the glaring disparity in the CEO-worker wage gap in India, highlighting that in large corporations, CEOs earn 500 to 800 times the median employee salary. For instance, the chairman of L&T earned a salary of Rs 51 crore in 2023-24, which is 534.57 times the median salary of the company's employees, they pointed out.

WILDCAT IN CITY

Leopard, cubs spotted in BSK VI Stage, residents panic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A leopard and its cubs were found prowling in the First Block of Banashankari 6th Stage recently, causing panic among residents. Videos of the animals have been captured by the CCTV cameras of an apartment and mobile phones of some residents. The leopard is said to have entered from the Turahalli Forest which is adjacent to the area.

Prakash RM, a resident of Banashankari, said, "Some days ago, another resident told me that he spotted a leopard near his home. I didn't believe him. But after I saw the CCTV footage from the apartment, I was convinced. Now, I am scared to go around the area post sunset."

TS Mahesha, president of Banashankari 6th Stage Resident Welfare Association, said, "As Banashankari 6th Stage is adjacent to Turahalli Forest, leopards often venture into the residential area and then go back into the forest. We have complained to the Kaggalipura Forest Division about the leopard sighting."

Assistant Conservator of Forest Ravindra said, "So far, there is no photographic or CCTV evidence that a leopard with cubs has been sighted. We are checking the area to ascertain it. One leopard was sighted sitting on a rock in Turahalli Forest from the window of an apartment. That was around a fortnight ago and it was a male."

Another forest official on the ground said that if a leopard with cubs is wandering, citizens are requested not to disturb them and not to panic. They will go back to the forest. "We request the residents not to pick up the cubs or to have any human imprint on them. We are combing the area for pug marks and any other signs," he added.

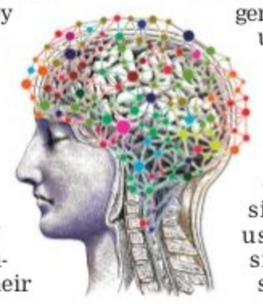
In pain? Brain neurons are making you act differently

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHRONIC physical pain can be debilitating, but feelings of stress, fear and hunger can sometimes suppress painful sensations. Neurons in different parts of the brain play a role in orchestrating pain response in animals, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) scientists said in their new report.

Scientists from the Centre for Neuroscience (CNS), IISc, have now found how neurons work together to control chronic pain in mice, allowing them to cope or suppress the pain. This finding will help researchers devise better therapeutic strategies for chronic pain management, said researchers on Wednesday.

The report 'Converging inputs compete at the lateral parabrachial nuclei to dictate the affective-motivational responses to cold pain', was also published in PAIN journal in November 2024. It stated that scientists studied mice with chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) – a common but less understood side-effect of chemotherapy, which leads to cancer patients becoming hypersensitive to external stimuli like cold temperatures. They found the brain region called the lateral parabrachial nucleus (LPBN) played a key role in driving this phenomenon.



The report noted that when LPBN neurons were activated, mice licked their paws more frequently – an active coping strategy – in response to a painful cold stimulus. The researchers found that these LPBN neurons act as a relay junction of sorts that controls how much pain the mice feel and how they cope with it.

Arnab Barik, CNS Assistant Professor and co-author of the report, said some patients suffering from arthritis or CIPN feel a lot more pain triggered by certain stimuli that healthy individuals generally don't feel.

Prannay Reddy, co-author, said CIPN mice showed similar signs. "For us to feel pain in a situation where we shouldn't feel pain, something must go wrong in the brain. There should be more firing or misfiring (of neurons) in certain regions of the brain."

The team also found that when they activated inhibitory inputs from another brain region – the lateral hypothalamus which is primarily involved in regulating feelings like stress and hunger – it reduced the cold-induced licking response and presumably the painful sensations.

Barik cited an example: "If you're very hungry and you have back pain, you can still manage the pain and go over to finding food. Now if you have an intense pain attack, where all these neurons are really stimulated, then you are not going to go looking for food. The brain computes that."

EXPRESS READ

HC allows BU to conduct B.Com exams from today

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court permitted the Bangalore University to conduct exams for the B.Com course (1st, 3rd and 5th semesters) as per the schedule, from January 13 (Monday). During a special sitting on Sunday, a division bench of Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice MI Arun stayed the January 10 order passed by a single judge and passed this interim order. The single judge had directed the university to reschedule exam dates as they were overlapping with the CA foundation and CA intermediate examinations that are held across the country. The varsity had questioned this order. With the order passed by the division bench, the exams can be be held as per earlier schedule on 13, 15, 17, 20 and 21 of this month.

KSET document verification from today

Bengaluru: The document verification process for the Karnataka State Eligibility Test (KSET) for Assistant Professors- 2024 will commence on Monday, January 13, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurating the certificate issuance process. The verification process, applicable to candidates included in the provisional eligibility test, will continue till January 20. Certificates will be issued on the spot if the documents meet the specified criteria. During the inaugural event on Monday, the CM will also lay the foundation stone for an additional building at KEA office in Malleswaram. Those who miss their assigned dates during the process will not be allowed to verify documents on alternate days. Moreover, all original documents must comply with the eligibility criteria.

Applications invited for BBMP's welfare programme

Bengaluru: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has invited applications from eligible candidates for the implementation of various welfare programmes for the year 2024-25. "BBMP's Welfare Department is taking steps for the implementation of various welfare programmes for 2024-25. Accordingly, applications have been invited from eligible candidates of all categories -- pourakarmikas, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, economically-backward and minority groups, specially-abled, transgenders, and women," said BBMP Special Commissioner Surolkar Vikas, adding that the applications can be submitted both online and offline, before February 4. Applications are invited for the 'Onti Mane' scheme for the construction of houses for the urban poor too. The BBMP is also reimbursing school fees and providing aid for higher education and foreign education. Eligible persons can also apply for aid for serious health issues, health checkups for senior citizens, and limb replacement for the disabled. Applications have also been invited from transgenders, sports enthusiasts, and senior citizens under various welfare programmes.

'Vivek Run' held at Shalini Grounds

Bengaluru: In celebration of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti and National Youth Day, 'Vivek Run' was organised by Samarth Bharat and Rashtrotthana Parishat at Shalini Grounds in Jayanagar. Rajesh Padmar, trustee of Samarth Bharat, shared Swami Vivekananda's inspirational message with the attendees. Special edition of Utthana magazine, titled RSS @100, was also released during the event. KA Rajesh and Nagendra Kamat, coordinators of Rashtrotthana Yoga Kendra were present.

Vydehi waives tuition fee for various PG courses

Bengaluru: Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre has announced a full tuition fee waiver for students joining various Pre-Clinical and Para-Clinical postgraduate courses for the academic year 2024-25. This offer, extended to candidates allocated through the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) counselling, applies to courses under both Government and Private Quotas, excluding MD Pathology and MD Community Medicine. The courses eligible for the full tuition fee waiver include MS in Anatomy, MD in Bio-Chemistry, Physiology, Forensic Medicine, Microbiology, and Pharmacology. In addition to the tuition fee waiver, the institute will provide free accommodation, boarding, and lodging to the selected candidates. Further, the institute guarantees employment with a Senior Resident position, offering a salary of Rs 1.30 lakh or the applicable salary at the time of completing the post-graduation, a press release said.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

13TH January : I'd like to remind you that every awkward astrological prediction comes with a series of options for changing the future for the better. Some people like to perform the various religious rituals and purifications which are appropriate to particular planets. Others like to alter their behaviour, avoiding unnecessary risks. Both have their place, in my opinion.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Overall, this is not a week for clear thinking. However, neither is it a time to let your imagination run riot. The planetary picture can be rather argumentative, but only if you allow trivial events to provoke you. Stick to your principles and the results could be very constructive.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It's time for some smart ideas. You will gain immeasurably from discussing all your long-term hopes and wishes with as many people as possible. This is hardly the moment to dig your heels in and resist the inevitable. If you do insist in keeping things exactly as they are, then it could hit you in the pocket.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You're coming to the end of a brief cycle which has brought a surge in your personal ambitions and welcome professional developments. There'll be one last emotional push at the end of the week, and you'll have the confidence to forge your own path whether partners support you or not.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
No matter how misjudged or angry you feel, think twice before you try and settle any old scores. This is one of those weeks when a chance remark could start a full-scale war, so tread warily. The fact is that someone close to you is under incredible pressure, and they need your help and understanding.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Obviously, a great deal has happened in the past which has caused you grief or just plain irritation - in that you're not unusual. However, unless you decide to wipe the slate clean now, some adverse planetary aspects this week may stir up a number of continuing dramas.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
What a perplexing time this is. However, planetary movements over the next few days bring welcome changes. In particular, friends and partners who have been out of sorts will regain their composure. But you may also have to patch up a partner's emotional bruises.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You may now need to spend more time on your own and not expend so much energy keeping up a front. In addition, relations with children now seem to be more important. Younger family members will show you the way to enjoy yourself, so don't stand on ceremony.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Your personal stars are under a little pressure, which is why you may need to dispose of some unwanted emotional baggage this week. Today's lunar position emphasises meetings, interviews and unusual discussions - anything which can ease the path of your work and daily routine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
The Moon aligns with highly intuitive sectors of your chart for much of the day, so you should find yourself fully in tune with the general mood of the times. Financial hopes and cares may occupy much of your attention, especially if you're being overwhelmed by common sense and a realisation that it's right to plan ahead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You have been forced to redefine your role on a number of occasions over the last year or so, often with great personal difficulty. Over the next few days you'll receive a hint that it was indeed all worth it but, if hidden worries come up, then face them head on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Mars and Venus are currently such a splendid couple of planets that you can afford to feel happy and confident, even if life is a little too complicated. Grasp every nettle in sight and amaze loved ones by backing your imagination, instincts, intuitions and hunches.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
A group of planets aligned with mysterious regions of your solar chart signifies discreet romantic encounters and quiet social gatherings. Such gentle influences generally suit your mild and sensitive Piscean manner, so appreciate your good fortune.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

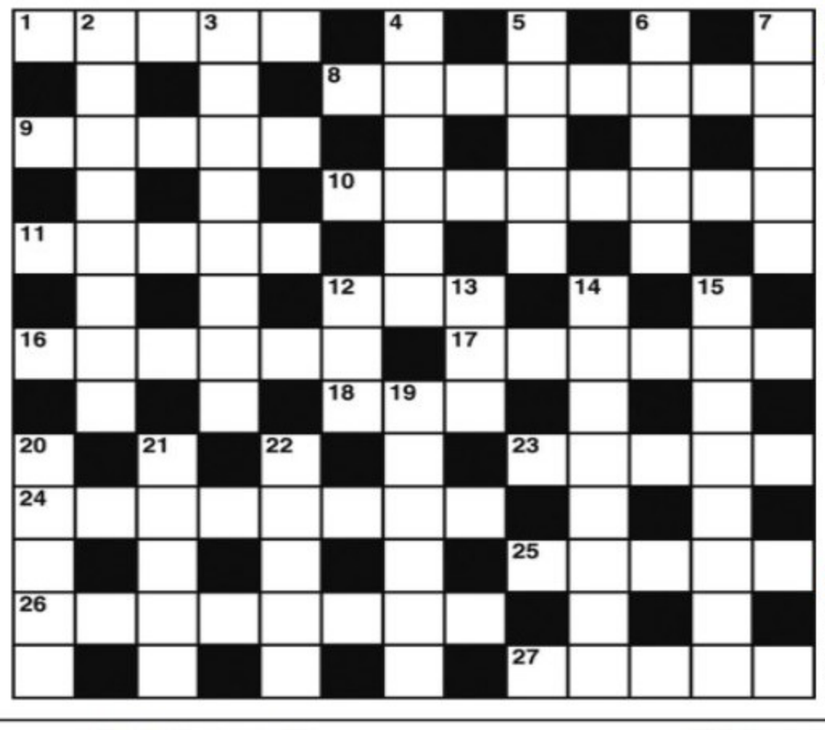
		7		9			6	4
					2	9	7	
8	9			4				2
			2					8
		3				7		
7					1			
4				7			9	6
	3	9	6					
6	7			8		2		

4	3	7	5	2	9	6	1	8
9	8	2	1	7	6	5	4	3
1	5	6	3	4	8	7	9	2
5	2	4	8	6	1	3	7	9
3	7	9	2	5	4	8	6	1
6	1	8	7	9	3	4	2	5
7	9	3	4	8	2	1	5	6
2	4	1	6	3	5	9	8	7
8	6	5	9	1	7	2	3	4

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Medieval means of saving face (5)
8 Right to succeed (4,4)
9 Strait-laced guys? (5)
10 One should admit when one is depressed (8)
11 Provides food and lodging in castles (5)
12 Maybe many decades are viewed in retrospect (3)
16 Meant to be a guide but could be a trick (6)
17 Believe one side of the account (6)
18 Come to a vital conclusion (3)
23 Bait for badger (5)
24 Public building due to be consecrated (8)
25 Nothing like one's well-equipped place (5)
26 Charge too much? (8)
27 Riverside pools (5)

DOWN
2 On the wrong side where banks are concerned (2,3,3)
3 Small company simply involved in producing games (8)
4 Left hands? (6)
5 Found out, caught and tried (5)
6 Devalue pound with support from one in debt (5)
7 Mature public notice put up last month (5)
12 Aim for goal in close finish (3)
13 One that's out of place (3)
14 Made rare concoction of sugar (8)
15 Female colour bar (8)
19 He cometh in play or cinema production (6)
20 Fire new growth (5)
21 Is extravagant with music (5)
22 Losses from strikes (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Abstinence, 6 Base, 10 Khaki, 11 Catchword, 12 Belgrade, 13 Straw, 15 Amorist, 17 Suicide, 19 Derided, 21 Overeat, 22 Ethic, 24 Siphoned, 27 Misbehave, 28 Evade, 29 Rude, 30 Prospector.

Down: 1 Auks, 2 Stage door, 3 Icing, 4 Enchant, 5 Cutlets, 7 Amour, 8 Endowments, 9 Chastise, 14 Daydreamer, 16 Indicted, 18 Inelegant, 20 Despair, 21 Ospreys, 23 Hosed, 25 Oxeye, 26 Gear.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

CBTAH

GILOC

SRTAYP

MRAHWT

Today's Guest JUMBLER is
DEE FISH
creator of FINDING DEE
NOT FANS OF US LOCKING THE PET DOOR WHILE YOU'RE OUT ON THE PATIO, I TAKE IT?
MEW.
11-18
LEAVING KITTIES UNSUPERVISED FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME CAN OFTEN BE ----
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: GOING BLEND KNIGHT WIRING
Answer: He told his wife that he'd plant all the new shrubs for her, but he really wasn't — DIGGING IT

Two labourers died on the spot and four others were injured, when a MUV they were traveling in rammed into a truck at Emmerahalli flyover on NH-48 near Sira in the wee hours of Sunday. The deceased were identified as Basavaraju (40) and Suresh (28) from Manvi taluk in Raichur district

No progress in medical negligence cases since 2015

15 such cases pending in B'luru; Cops say many cases go unreported or are settled out of court with monetary aid

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

"MY son would have been 23 years old if he were alive. He might have started working and would have reduced my burden. As a construction worker, my life would have been different if he hadn't slipped into a coma in 2017 due to medical negligence. After struggling for years in a coma, he passed away in January 2024," said Eshwar, who lost his only son – Vignesh.

This is not Eshwar's case alone, but a reflection of the struggles faced by many across Karnataka with very few attempting to file cases of medical negligence. Even in cases that are registered, the conviction rate remains zero. According to police data, since 2015, 15 medical negligence cases have been pending in the city, including three each from 2015 and 2016. Of these, four cases are of patients dying during treatment.

Eshwar told *TNIE* that he is 51 years old now and had high hopes for his son's future. Vignesh suffered from a hernia and was admitted to a private hospital in Padmanabhanagar on April 4, 2017. A doctor allegedly administered a high dose of anaesthesia, leaving him in a coma. Senior doctors advised Eshwar to shift Vignesh to another hospital and promised to cover the expenses. But though the bill ran up to Rs 19 lakh, the management paid only Rs 5 lakh. Vignesh never recovered and passed away. "We filed a case in 2017 at the Banashankari police station and we are yet to get justice," Eshwar said.

He expressed frustration with the Karnataka Medical Council (KMC) hearings, which are held only on Saturdays. The accused doctor often failed to appear, while dates of hearing kept changing, delaying his pursuit of justice. "I am tired of going to KMC hearings. We still do not know which injection was given to him," he said, adding that he will continue to seek justice for his son's death.

DCP (South) Lokesh B Jagalasar told *TNIE* that because of delays in trials of medical negligence cases, the police are unable to file chargesheet as they are not domain experts. Such cases have been pending for 10 years in the south division as no final reports have been submitted by the boards constituted to probe these cases, he added.

Another senior police officer explained that KMC is a quasi-judicial body comprising doctors and medical experts who conduct hearings. Delays occur because there is no set timeline for submitting reports. The officer also noted that many cases go unreported or are settled out of court with monetary compensation.

Dr Yogananda Reddy, president of KMC, told TNIE that delays in hearings are due to multiple reasons, including Covid, KMC elections and lack of cooperation from respondents and complainants. He stated that complaints often involve multiple accused, which prolongs the process.

He said efforts are being made to speed up the hearings. KMC has doubled the number of hearings on Saturdays and is considering conducting hearings on Fridays as well but it's under discussion, he added.

TNIE photojournalist Shimoga Nandan no more

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

TNIE photojournalist Nandan Gowda (57) passed away in the early hours of Sunday due to heart attack at a private hospital. Widely known as **Shimoga Nandan**, his photojournalism career spanned over three decades. He is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter. Nandan had an illustrious career, during which he worked with *The New Indian Express*, *Kannada Prabha*, and other Kannada dailies. Renowned for his creative photography, he focused on capturing the lives of ordinary people, often highlighting their struggles. Beyond his work as a photojournalist, Nandan was an environmental activist, known for opposing projects harmful to the environment. During his career, he won several state-level awards, and his photographs were featured in exhibitions across the state and the country. His last rites were performed at Rotary Crematorium.

Seven cheat businessman of ₹2 cr, held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HALASURU Gate police arrested seven individuals, including a woman, for allegedly cheating a 34-year-old businessman by claiming they could double his money by investing it in a foreign company, and posing as representatives of the company based in Malaysia.

Police said the seven accused were arrested in Bengaluru and Mumbai, while five others from the gang are still absconding. All seven worked as intermediaries, while others worked in different states. Among the seven, three are from Kerala, one from Mumbai, and three from Bengaluru. The accused promised the victim that they would double his investment within a day by investing in a fake foreign company, called 'Malaysia OIA: Achithi Inchit Cedi Hchiz'.

The accused convinced the youth to invest Rs 2 crore, promising that the company would return Rs 3.5 crore via RTGS/NEFT within a single day. The victim visited their office in Nagrathpet and handed over Rs 2 crore. The accused, in return, transferred Rs 9,780 to the victim, claiming it was an advance and the remaining amount would be credited shortly. When the victim did not receive the promised money, he visited the office and found it closed, and their mobile numbers switched off.

Darshan's gun licence cancelled

Bengaluru : City police issued a notice to Kannada actor **Darshan**, an accused in the Renukaswamy murder case, regarding the revocation of his gun licence. DCP-Administration Padmini Sahoo has issued notice to Darshan in this regard. The RR Nagar police submitted a letter to the commissioner of police to revoke his gun licence, the senior officer told TNIE, adding that Darshan is yet to reply to the notice. According to source, the notice stated, "As you (Darshan) are out on bail in the murder case, there is a possibility of influencing witnesses. There are suspicions that you might use the licenced gun in your possession to threaten witnesses. Therefore, it is necessary to revoke your gun license. You are hereby instructed to respond to it." **ENS**

Health experts bat for balanced diet to combat NCDs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH unhealthy diets accounting for 56% of India's disease burden, doctors at the 30th Continuing Medical Education (CME) Seminar emphasised the need to integrate nutrition science into managing lifestyle diseases. The event was organised by the Physicians Association for Nutrition India (PAN India) in collaboration with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Sunday. The event highlighted how changes in eating habits, such as consuming more processed foods, meat, and sugar, are increasing non-communicable diseases and stressed the importance of food-based dietary guidance in reducing these diseases.

The seminar was aimed at bridging the gap between nutrition science and medical practice to help doctors and nutritionists tackle NCDs.

Speakers highlighted that Karnataka, where over 62% of the disease burden stems from NCDs, has seen a steady rise in cases of hypertension, stroke, and coronary artery disease, according to data from the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke programme.

Alarmingly, ICMR study noted that 1 in 3 people in Karnataka has hypertension, the speakers pointed out. Former Director of Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Nutrition, Dr Hemalatha R, highlighted how insufficient consumption of whole grains, fibre, and essential fatty acids worsens chronic diseases.

EXPRESS READ

12-year-old boy crushed to death

Bengaluru: A 12-year-old boy died on his birthday, and his uncle sustained injuries after a truck hit their two-wheeler from the rear. The incident occurred near Hennur Bande Main road on Saturday night. The deceased Banuteja, from Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh was studying Class 7. The injured person has been identified as Chakravarthi. The police stated that around 11.30 pm on Saturday, Banuteja and his uncle Chakravarthi were heading towards RT Nagar from Hulimavu, when a speeding truck hit their two-wheeler near Hennur Bande Main road. The truck ran over Banuteja's head, crushing him to death. Chakravarthi sustained minor injuries and was rushed to hospital. The truck driver fled the scene, abandoning the vehicle. The Hennur traffic police registered a case.

Five injured in Indiranagar road accident

Bengaluru: Five people, including a minor, sustained injuries after a speeding car hit a two-wheeler, jumped the median, and collided with another car coming from the opposite direction. The incident occurred near the KFC Junction under the Jeevan Bhima Nagar traffic police station limits on Sunday morning. The police said that around 11.15 am, a speeding luxury car moving from 6th Cross, Indiranagar, towards KFC Junction hit the scooter from the rear. In a bid to avoid further damage, the car driver swerved the vehicle to the right, crossed over the median and again hit another car coming from the opposite direction. The two-wheeler rider sustained minor injuries, while a family of three, including a minor in the car, also suffered injuries.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE WORLD
GLOBAL EXPRESS
Expert opinions | In-depth analysis
Comprehensive coverage
MIDDLE EAST: ON A POWDER KEG
Scan to watch
DECODED BY
NEENA GOPAL
IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS
SUBSCRIBE NOW TO STAY UPDATED

Seeking Reputed Large-scale Mining Contractor for Baitarni West Coal Mine in Angul, Odisha

GMDC, Gujarat's leading mining PSU, invites reputed contractors to participate in the RFP for large-scale mining operations at the Baitarni West Coal Mine, Odisha. This project is a step towards creating a world-class mining facility, setting benchmarks in safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

Contract Highlights

8-Year Contract | Targeted Coal Extraction Quanity: 80.40 Million MT

RFP No. GMDC/CPD/001/2024-25
RFP Upload Date 13th January, 2025
Last Date for Online Price Bid Submissions 22nd April, 2025 1800 Hrs. IST
Final deadline for Submitting Technical Bids, RFP Fees, and EMD in Hard Copy 18th March 2025, 1400 Hrs.

For scope and other details, interested bidders may download the RFP Document from our websites: www.gmdcltd.com, https://gmdc.nprocure.com, https://tender.nprocure.com

Khanij Bhavan, 132 Feet Ring Road, Nr. Gujarat University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad - 380052

Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

Disposal of Obsolete Medical Records

The Hospital proposes to dispose off all old inpatient and outpatient records with related investigations of the year 2019. Any person who desires to obtain a copy of his / her old medical records may contact the undersigned either in person or through an authorised representative with a request for obtaining the documents. These documents will not be available after 15 February, 2025.

Dr. UMESH N, Medical Director,
Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital,
Millers Road, Vasanthanagar,
Bengaluru - 560052. Tel: (080) 40875500, 40875555. Email: md@bmjh.org

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
THE ALL-NEW APP
SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP
STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS
GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office West
Chitrapur Bhavan, 8th Main, 15th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560055.

POSSESSION NOTICE
APPENDIX IV under Rule 8 (1) Section 13(4) (For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank, Bharath Nagar Branch,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **05.10.2024** calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors, **1. Mr. Anurag Srivastav** S/o Sri Alok Srivastav, Flat No. 404, Tower 12, Parastiera Sector 137, Near Selix Hospital Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201305. **2. (Guarantor) Mr. R. V. Prahalad** S/o Mr. Ramohalli Vasudevamurthy, # 6, Behind Manjunatha Kalyana Mantapa, Vajarahalli, Thalaghattapura, Bengaluru -560062, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.82,06,561.86 Paisa** (Rupees Eighty Two Lakhs Six Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty One and Paisa Eighty Six Only) as on **04.10.2024** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice, together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **08th January 2025.**

The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank** for an amount of **Rs.82,06,561.86 Paisa** (Rupees Eighty Two Lakhs Six Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty One and Paisa Eighty Six Only) as on **04.10.2024** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY: All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable residentially converted property bearing Sy No.69, measuring 2 Acres & 02 Guntas, vide Conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/61/2014-15, dated 16.01.2014, Sy. No.73, measuring 1 Acre & 03 Guntas, vide Conversion order bearing No. ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15, dated 16.03.2015, Sy No.74, measuring 13 Guntas +13 Guntas +14 Guntas +12 Guntas +12 Guntas, in all measuring 1 Acre & 24 Guntas, vide Conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15, dated 16.03.2015, and Sy. No.76, measuring 1 Acre & 24 Guntas, vide Conversion order bearing No. ALN(AJ)SR/02/2014-15, dated 05.09.2014, thus the total composite property measuring 6 Acres & 13 Guntas, situated at adjacent to Surya City, B-Sector, Hennagara Amanikere Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru Urban District-560102 and bounded on the: East by : Sy. No.77, West by : Sy.No. 71, 65 & 64, North by : Sy No.75 & Nala, South by : 45 Meters Road.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY: 1,200 Square Feet of undivided share, right, title interest and ownership in Schedule 'A' Property at "CASTLETON GREENS".

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY: All that Piece and Parcel of the Residential Villa bearing No. 65 on the Ground and First Floor and named as "CASTLETON GREENS", having Super Built Up Area measuring 2,125 Square Feet, constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, which is inclusive of Floors, ceiling and Wall between the building is bounded on the: East by : Villa No. 56, West by : Road, North by : Villa No.66, South by : Villa No.64.

Date : 08.01.2025
Place :Bengaluru.

Sd/-Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, my client viz., **M/s. 11 SQUARES, (A Partnership Firm) having its office at # 360, 9th Main, Ground Floor, Kudlu Road, AECS Layout, A Block, Bengaluru - 560068,** represented by its Partners has negotiated and intending to enter into **Joint Development Agreement** in regard to the Schedule Property with its absolute owners viz., Mr. M. Nagaraj Reddy, & Mr. M. Ravichandra (Both are sons of Late. K. Muniswamy Reddy). It is brought to the notice of the general public that all or any persons having any claim against the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, agreement to sell, transfer, assignment, JDA, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, Maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise if anybody have any right, title, interest or claims whatsoever over the same or any part thereof, they are hereby requested to lodge their written objections / claims together with supporting documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 days of publication of this notice, failing which my client shall complete transactions by entering the Joint Development Agreement with the above said owners and subsequent claims by anybody shall not be entertained and all such objections and claims will be deemed to be void and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THAT the property bearing No.592.74/3, New PID No.150200402300123031, measuring 4046.86 square meters, carved out of the converted land in **Sy.No. 74, measuring 1 Acre,** situated at **Halanayakanahalli Village,** Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban district (Converted from agricultural to non agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum bearing **No. ALN[EVH]SR/135/2010-11 dated 08.09.2010** issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru district) and bounded on the:

East by : Remaining land in Sy.No. 74; West by : Remaining land in Sy.No. 74; North by : Land in Sy.No. 40 & Road; South by : Land in Sy.No. 73.

NAGARAJA P
N & N LAW CHAMBERS
Advocate & Legal Consultant
990, 1st Floor, 5th Main Road, 20th Cross, 7th Sector - HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102.
Ph: 9739403530
E-Mail: raj.np2@gmail.com
Dated: 12.01.2025

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Address at Sy No 105, 1st Floor Jigani Shankar Building, Jigani Link Road Near Bharath Petrol Pump, Bandenallasandra Village, Jigani Post, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560105
Contact no:9321932732, mail ID: ubin0932732@unionbankofindia.bank

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of Union Bank of India, Sy No 105, 1st Floor Jigani Shankar Building, Jigani Link Road Near Bharath Petrol Pump, Bandenallasandra Village, Jigani Post, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560105 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002)and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a demand notice dated **19.09.2024** calling upon the borrower **Shri Ajay Kumar** S/o Suryabhan Thakur and **Smt Ranjana Rani** W/o Ajay Kumar to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 30,08,341.77 (Rupees Thirty lakhs Eight thousand Three hundred and fourty one and Seventy seven paise)** as on **13.09.2024** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this **07th day of January for the year 2025.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India for an amount **Rs. 30,08,341.77** as on **13.09.2024** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Immovable Property

Registered Equitable Mortgage of a Two Bed Room Apartment Bearing No.601 on the Sixth Floor of the Building known as "Park Golden Aura" constructed in Schedule B Property having a super built up area of 1370 Sq Feet together with 369 Sq Feet of undivided share of land and one covered Car Parking space in the Ground Floor, constructed on Site No. 941/2, 941/3, 941/4, SY. No. 65, situated at Chandapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District.Bounded : East by: Samarpana Asram, West by: Flat No 602, North By: Site no 941/1, South by: Flat No 612.

Date : 07.01.2025
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
UNION BANK OF INDIA

POOMPUHAR SHIPPING CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Enterprise)
692, Anna Salai, IVth Floor, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035, India
Telephone No. : 044 - 24330505 / 807, Fax : 91-44-24344593 /24335706,
E-mail : pscship@gmail.com CIN : U63090TN1974PLC006596

Global Tender No.PSC/P&I/001/2024-25

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from reputed IG P&I Insurance Clubs / Companies for Class I & II cover for Chartered Vessels for the period 20.02.2025 noon to 20.02.2026 noon.

Tender download start date	: 13.01.2025 at 1600 hours
Bid submission end date	: 04.02.2025 at 1200 hours
Tender opening	: 04.02.2025 at 1400 hours
Venue	: Poompuhar Shipping Corporation Limited, 692, (old no 473) Anna Salai, IV Floor, Nandanam Chennai – 600 035.
EMD	: Rs. 1,00,000/- Indian/ Foreign Company/Firm
Value of Tender	: USD 98,400 (Rs. 85,00,000)

Tender document is available in e tendering web portal https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app and www.tamilship.com at free of cost. Prospective bidders are advised to refer https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app for specific important details and upload their bid. The conditions / requirement mentioned in the website shall meet out by the bidders. The advertisement is an invitation for bid only. The details given in the website are comprehensive.

Further all communications will be updated through https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app only.

DIPR/153/TENDER/2025

GENERAL MANAGER (OPERATION)
POOMPUHAR SHIPPING CORPORATION LTD.

All the news. In just a click. Log to www.newindianexpress.com | THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS | /thenewindianexpress @newindianexpress The New Indian Express | Google Play | App Store

The Federation of Traditional Boats Fishermen' Association has warned the government that they will wait for only 10 days for them to take a decision to ban unscientific 'light fishing' method practised by mechanised fishing boats

'HMPV IS JUST ANOTHER ANNUAL VIRUS, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY'

AMID the HMPV scare, **Dr Asima Banu**, Professor and HoD of the Microbiology department and Principal of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), and Nodal Officer for Trauma Care Centre, has a reassuring message: that there is absolutely no reason to worry. In an interaction with the *TNIE* editorial team, she shared her views on multiple issues such as healthcare in Karnataka, why people choose private hospitals and what needs to be done to strengthen the medical care system.

Excerpts...

Could you tell us about the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) and how dangerous it is?
Every time, ever year, we have some viral outbreaks in the world. This is a respiratory virus. These are common viruses which cause common seasonal cough and cold. There is nothing to worry about. Covid-19 became a problem because of the mutations. The HMPV we are talking about right now in India, according to the genomic surveillance we did, is not the strain that's found in China.

Is HMPV just another viral infection?
Yes, it was always there. It comes every year. We saw HMPV in 2001. We have the avian metapneumovirus from 1970s. After that, there have been regular bouts of infections and we don't bother about them.

The stress is again on wearing a mask. Should we continue to do that?
I always recommend masking. If you have influenza A/B or H1N1, or are visiting a healthcare setup, or have a cough and cold, it is better to wear a mask so it doesn't spread to others.

How is HMPV different from other viruses in causing kids to be hospitalized?
It is not a severe cough but a prolonged one, often persisting over an extended period. Children, in particular, are experiencing prolonged illness, which is prompting testing. Regarding the two cases reported at Baptist Hospital, I am unsure why they were admitted. However, no casualties have been reported anywhere in Karnataka linked to this issue.

What advice would you give to parents, especially since children are among the primary targets of this illness? How can they manage or prevent it at home?
The two cases involved infants aged three months and eight months, so it's likely they were infected either by a parent, another family member, or during an outing. Parents and caregivers must strictly adhere to preventive measures such as masking and maintaining hand hygiene. While masking infants is not feasible, it is essential to isolate them from others, if necessary.

What message would you like to share regarding the current HMPV scare?
There's no need to fear a pandemic, epidemic or virus, but it's important to stay vigilant. Be aware without panicking. Follow basic precautions like hand hygiene, masking, and proper cough etiquette. If you are infected, isolate yourself to prevent spreading the illness.

Is there a possibility of this virus mutating? At what point does it become a concern? Are we actively monitoring its progression?
Every virus mutates, especially as we encroach on zoonotic areas and disrupt habitats meant for animals. This particular virus, seen in turkeys and poultry, is domestic rather than wild. To address this, the government has implemented the 'One Health' approach, focusing on the surveillance of pathogens across humans, animals and even marine life.

How has the health machinery improved post pandemic?
Covid-19 taught us that it can happen anytime. Our generation had only read about pandemics in books. For the next 40-50 years, we are there to handle this and are equipped. It will be a novelty for the next generation. We are doing a lot of robust surveillance and diagnosis. During Covid-19, we procured many things, now we just have to pick up a PCR and start. We have become vigilant. We can detect viruses three weeks in advance using water samples, and prevent outbreaks. We are equipped with beds and manpower to handle emergencies. We didn't know how to handle respiratory emergencies during Covid-19, but now we can. People are also aware of etiquette like mask, hand hygiene etc.

EXPRESS Dialogues

Is there a shortage of manpower in the health sector?
We follow the National Medical Council (NMC) guidelines in medical colleges for the required manpower. Yes, there is attrition and transfers, so in sectors like nursing, there will be a shortage.

Why do some lose interest after getting into the medical field?
After 12 years of struggle to get a medical seat, they tend to relax. They become euphoric, there is also pride and arrogance.

You said diagnosis is very specific now. But while testing for respiratory illnesses like HMPV, do you think there could be cases of false positives?
No. We have very strict quality assurance. ICMR has designated only BMC lab to do the testing in Karnataka. We are doing positive and negative quality analyses, matching the results and then sending them to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Virology (NIV).

BMCRI is the only designated lab in Karnataka for this type of surveillance. How many cases are typically being reported on a regular or weekly basis?
There are only five cases allowed per week for children under five years, and five cases per year for adults above 65. These samples must first test negative for influenza, RSV and Covid-19. If the patient still exhibits severe symptoms and is either under five or over 65, the sample is sent to BMCRI.

Post-Covid, has there been an increase in demand for studying virology among medical students?
There hasn't been a significant increase in the demand to specifically study virology. This year too, there has been little interest, possibly due to delays caused by the Covid batch. Once exams return to a regular schedule, we expect more students to take it up.

Which medical courses currently have the most takers, and are in highest demand?
Dermatology, cosmetic dermatology, has gained significant popularity. It offers a more predictable schedule with no emergencies, making it an attractive and financially viable option. Radiology is also in demand for similar reasons — no night shifts or emergencies.

What are your thoughts on the one-year rural stint that doctors are required to serve after completing their course?
In government colleges, rural postings are mandatory. Most new government colleges are located in districts, so doctors are posted there. The exposure they get in rural areas is different from what they would experience in urban settings, and I believe it's valuable.

Any words of encouragement for young doctors considering rural service?
It's about the rural bond. Whatever bond they have signed, they should complete it and move on. Some doctors choose rural service, especially if they come from rural backgrounds. They feel a strong connection to their roots and want to give back to their village or taluk. If they are from urban areas, they may not choose to go to rural settings.

Whenever there is some virus, a lot of panic is created on social media. What do you have to say about it?
I can't say they're doing it purposefully. After Covid, people have become more paranoid and panicky about these situations.

People choose private hospitals over government hospitals, even if treatment is free. Why so?
Maybe because of the high load of patients, people prefer private hospitals. Government hospitals get over 1,000 outpatients, 150 emergencies and 100 deliveries, all in a day. Which private hospital has this much of load on a daily basis? Government hospitals are always overcrowded. Those who want quick treatment, without waiting, choose private hospitals and we don't have any say on this. On the other hand, there are many who prefer government hospitals, especially for normal deliveries. Many women, private doctors, bureaucrats and others get admitted to government hospitals for normal deliveries as they fear that if they go to private hospitals, they may have to undergo C-section delivery.

Why do people always complain about the service and treatment in government hospitals?
The number of beds and visitors in government and private hospitals are not comparable. In government hospitals, for one patient, as many as ten attendants barge in. People spit in the hospital, they eat and litter the premises. Is this done in private hospitals? There people follow the rules, stand in queues and follow discipline. Why can't the same behaviour be followed in government hospitals? As per government regulations, we can only have a specific number of staff, whereas private hospitals can have any number of doctors. It's no wonder private hospitals spend more time with patients and talk nicely to them. Private hospitals also charge accordingly.

Are government doctors paid less than private doctors?
Government doctors are paid well, much higher than those in private hospitals. There is huge competition among doctors to get into government hospitals. As selection is based on merit, only a few get a chance.

Isn't it the responsibility of the government to increase the number of hospitals to match increasing population?
Karnataka has the maximum number of medical colleges in India. It has one of the best infrastructure. The health minister is trying to have a medical college in each district. Compared to the healthcare scenario in North India, Karnataka is heaven. Post-Covid, even a Primary Health Centre is equipped with oxygenated beds.

Many rely on the internet for medical treatment these days. Isn't it harmful?
The trend of checking the internet, post Covid, to know one's medical condition and treatment has become an addiction now. Many have landed up with health anxiety disorder as they don't know what should be taken seriously and what not, and end up with complications.

What are the challenges to making healthcare more robust, accessible and affordable?
There needs to be massive awareness about schemes and facilities, and what we can offer. Many don't even know how to read and write. When they come to hospital, they don't know much about government schemes or whom to approach. At Vani Vilas Hospital, everything is free. There is a strong midwifery unit which pampers mothers and pushes for normal child delivery. This is not reaching the grassroots. Forget the population from outside the city, even Bengaluru's population is not very aware.

What do you have to say about maternal deaths in Ballari?
Maternal deaths are not reported only in Ballari, they are everywhere and we are investigating. The committee is conducting a death audit and once they give the report, we will come to know. We need to know the reason as Karnataka was doing well in containing maternal mortality.

Is BMCRI introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI)?
We need to have simulation skills as per National Medical Council (NMC) guidelines. When we started training, we had to see and learn and practice and now a module has been introduced by NMC. We have not taken any robotics yet. When we have manpower, there is no need for AI.

'Crisis-torn' Cong to hold series of meetings today, Siddu convenes CLP

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

AS ruling Congress is facing a fresh crisis over leadership with the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah camp – read ministers – holding dinner meetings, the Grand Old Party's rank and file will gather at three levels on Monday, including the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) which the CM has convened.

Though it is said the CLP will discuss the party's Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhana conference slated to be held in Belagavi on January 21, other more political issues of leadership and grievances of MLAs, including certain ministers ignoring them, will likely be raised. It will be interesting to see what will the Siddaramaiah camp bring up at these meetings.

It is likely that Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna and others from the Siddaramaiah camp may continue to push their demand for holding the SC/ST legislators' meeting which was postponed following instructions from AICC General Secretary, Karnataka incharge, Randeep Singh Surjewala. Surjewala will take part in all the meetings.

The CM's camp has grown closer and is trying to consolidate itself after coming to know that Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar was behind getting the meeting postponed. They are likely to convince Surjewala on the premise that the party came to power with a promise of welfare programmes for SC/STs and classification of SC quota ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls. "They are planning to hold the SC/ST MLAs' meeting excluding the KPCC president," a source said.

Earlier in the morning on Monday, the KPCC general body meeting will be held at which the party's officer-bearers including District Congress Committee presidents will take part. That will be followed by the executive committee meeting at the party office.

Appointments of party workers to boards and corporations and party organisation will also be likely discussed, sources said.

LET DKS SNATCH CM POST, SAYS ASHOKA

Opposition BJP has kept a close eye on the developments within Congress, which is facing a crisis with some ministers wishing that Siddaramaiah continues as CM, while others rooting for Shivakumar to succeed him immediately. Leader of opposition **R Ashoka** on Sunday observed that the Siddaramaiah camp has posed a challenge to Shivakumar to snatch the post if he can. "Congress has become a divided house. Shivakumar's statement that he had overgrown the cabinet berth when SM Krishna was CM has irked Siddaramaiah's supporters as they feel it implies that he will acquire the CM's post in future. That is the reason they have posed the challenge," he said.

Those who attacked cows will be punished: CM

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Hosapete

CONDEMNING cruelty to animals reported at Cottonpet, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah here on Sunday said the incident of cattle abuse is a crime and perpetrators would be identified and punished.

Visiting Hoovina Hadagali in Vijayanagara district to attend a mass marriage, organised by Congress district president Shiraj Shek, Siddaramaiah said there is no information yet about the culprits. The police commissioner has been directed to trace the offenders and act against them. Protests by Hindu organisations on the issue are politically motivated, he charged. He said the Cabinet will decide on the caste census report, brushing aside opposition to it saying such differing opinions are natural. The report, which cost Rs 160 crore to be prepared, has been accepted and the cabinet will decide on implementing it, he said.

Speaking at the mass marriage, he said inter-caste marriages echo the thoughts of Basavanna, who promoted such unions. People should embrace simplicity in marriage without worrying about caste distinctions and backgrounds. This would help couples rise above poverty, he advised.

He said there is a need to remain caste-neutral and adhere to the ideals of Basavanna. The government has recognised Basavanna as a cultural leader. While people are born as global citizens, the caste system limits their potential. People do not seek to be born into a specific caste. No caste should be hated, instead, everyone should be loved. Without economic independence, the caste system cannot be dismantled, he added.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah wishes newly-weds at a mass marriage event held in Vijayanagara district on Sunday | EXPRESS

BJP demands swift action or will observe 'Black Sankranti'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CONDEMNING the heinous act of miscreants cutting the udders of three cows in Bengaluru, BJP leaders on Sunday warned that they would observe a 'Black Sankranti', if the government fails to take action against the accused.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, after visiting the spot where the act was committed in Cottonpet, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka said this heinous act reflects a "Jihadi mindset". He added that in India, people worship cows as Gomatha, and cows are specially sacred during Sankranti.

Ashoka said there is a veterinary hospital in Chamarajpet since many years. But there was an attempt to take this property under the Wakf Board. People there did not just stage a protest against the government, but also went to court. These cows were used during the protest. "The miscreants have cut the udder and legs using weapons," he said. Slamming the Congress, Ashoka stated that none of the leaders of the Grand Old Party are criticising this.

Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa said the fact that miscreants carry out such a heinous act of attacking cows, despite knowing that it will hurt the sentiments of crores of people who worship it, is a reflection of the law and order situation in the state.

"I demand that the state government immediately arrest the perpetrators of such a heinous act and take strict action against them. We must be careful that no one commits such inhumane acts again," he said.

EXPRESS READ

DKS asks Vokkaliga Sangha office-bearers to defer meet on caste census

BENGALURU: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said he has asked the office-bearers of the Vokkaliga Sangha to defer the meeting they had called to discuss the caste census issue here on Sunday. Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Shivakumar said he has urged the members to defer the meeting, since it could create unnecessary confusion. "I have told them that I will talk to the seer of the Adi Chunchanagiri Mutt about it," he said. When asked if he held a meeting with the Vokkaliga Sangha's office-bearers, Shivakumar said he has not held any meetings and there is no need for them. "They had planned a separate meeting on caste census on Sunday, and I had informed them I would not participate in that," he said. Speaking about the appointment of an administrator for the Vokkaliga Sangha, Shivakumar said the office-bearers had met him after an internal reconciliation. "I have warned them that an administrator would be appointed for the Sangha if they continue to fight among themselves. They have promised to work together," he added. Asked about Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti's letter to Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara about transferring the case pertaining to CT Ravi allegedly using derogatory remarks against minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, he said the home minister would respond to it.

JDS to elect new chief in 2.5 months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION minister and JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday revealed that the NDA ally will elect a new state president within the next two-and-a-half months. The move is part of the party's efforts to revitalise its position in Karnataka's political sphere.

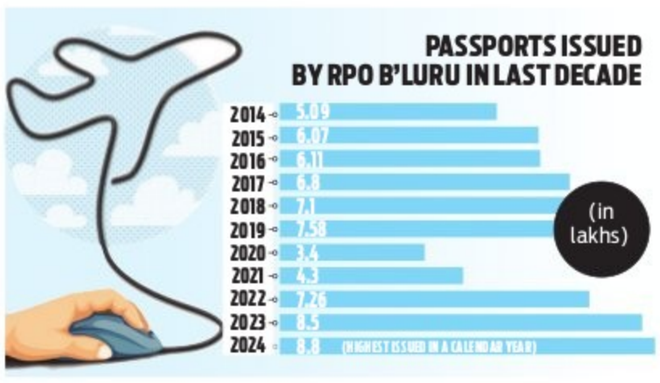
At a crucial meeting held in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy explained that while no discussions on potential candidates for the role took place, key decisions were made regarding internal reforms. These include organisational elections, membership drives, and preparations for upcoming district and taluk panchayat elections -- all pivotal for strengthening the party's foundations. "We will elect the state unit president through an election by April," Kumaraswamy confirmed, fuelling speculation about the future leadership.

Critics, however, pointed out that this move may be aimed at avoiding criticism over the appointment process. They recalled the controversy when former JDS state president CM Ibrahim was ousted, and Kumaraswamy took over without a proper election. At the time, Ibrahim had criticised the party for not holding an election. Despite this, Kumaraswamy affirmed, "Our focus will be on those who are truly dedicated to the party's progress. I will also be more hands-on in organising activities."

Addressing allegations that his role as Union minister has led to a leadership vacuum in the state, Kumaraswamy countered by clarifying his work schedule, which involves spending four days a week in New Delhi and the remaining time on party affairs. "I am committed to the party's growth, with scheduled visits to Mandya and crucial organisational meetings," he asserted.

A day after the AIADMK and its ally the DMDK decided to boycott the by-election to the Erode East Assembly constituency, the NDA led by the BJP on Sunday announced that it too would boycott it

Record passports issued in K'taka, thanks to demand from Tier 2 & 3 cities



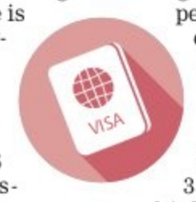
S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE desire to travel abroad from residents of Karnataka, particularly those in the Tier 2 and 3 cities, has kept the Regional Passport Office extremely busy last year. It has broken all past records with 8,83,755 passports issued in 2024.

"This figure bests our previous high recorded in 2023 by 34,000 passports thereby recording a 4% increase. What is driving the growth is the surge in applications received from the Tier 2 and 3 cities in Karnataka," Regional Passport Officer, Bengaluru, Krishna K told The New Indian Express.

Karnataka has 23 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs). "Post Covid-19, we have witnessed a surge in applications from POPSKs in these cities. An average of 700 to 800 applications are submitted to us through them daily," Krishna added.

Post-Covid-19, international travel has bounced back and hence the demand for passport services has been growing steadily, he said. There is a surge in Indians travelling abroad for work, education or for sightseeing purposes.



Krishna said 4,88,509 men, 3,95,236 women and 10 transgenders were issued passports in 2024.

Interestingly, a 100-year-old person was among those who got their passport last year. Eight individuals in the age category of 96-99 and 8,668 people in the 76-95 years category too got them, reveals data. The maximum number of passports - 3,88,453 - were issued to those in the age category of 16-35. Surprisingly, the highest number of passports were issued in a single month - 78,416- happened in February which had the least number of days.

Among other services rendered by the Passport department is the issuance of Police Clearance Certificates (PCCs), a mandatory requirement to work in certain countries. Revealing a trend of the most sought after countries job-wise, Kuwait was the most sought after workspot with 7,284 PCCs issued. Australia stood second with 2,712 PCCs, and Israel comes in the third spot.

Stalin arrogant, doesn't respect nation: Guv Ravi

Governor is acting arrogantly, wants to change convention, says DMK

T MURUGANANDHAM @Chennai

THE face-off between Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi and the DMK government hit a new low on Sunday with Raj Bhavan describing Chief Minister MK Stalin as arrogant after the latter had termed Ravi's decision to avoid delivering his address at the Assembly as "childish".

DMK leaders refuted Raj Bhavan's charges and said the governor is acting arrogantly as he holds the post.

Reacting to the CM's comments, Raj Bhavan, in a post on X, said by his remarks, the CM has asserted that insisting on due respect to the national anthem and performing the fundamental duties enshrined in the constitution are "absurd" and "childish". "Thanks for betraying the true intentions of the coalition of interests and ideologies to which he is a leader that does not accept and respect Bharat as a nation and her constitution. Such arrogance is not good," Raj Bhavan said, adding the CM "should not forget that Bharat is the supreme mother and the constitution is the supreme faith for her children". "They will not like or tolerate such brazen insult," Raj Bhavan tweeted, tagging the Union Home Minister and the Office of the Prime Minister.

Governor RN Ravi

TN CM MK Stalin

Reacting to the Raj Bhavan post, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Minister and DMK general secretary Duraimurugan, speaking in Vellore, said, "It has been the convention followed in the TN Assembly to recite *Thamizh Thaai Vaazthu* before the governor's address and the national anthem after the address. The governor wanted to change the convention and so he is in the wrong. He says the CM is arrogant, but it is he who is haughty as he holds the post of governor."

Asked about the Raj Bhavan tweet, DMK spokesperson Constantine Ravindran told *TNIE* that although the governor speaks of respect for the constitution, no other governor has issued such a statement that is contrary to the constitution. "On the other hand, the CM has never disrespected the constitution or federal principles. Had the CM done so in the past, the prime minister and union ministers would not have shared the dais with the CM. The President's office would not remain silent if a CM disrespects the country or its constitution," he said.

The DMK spokesperson pointed out that when the governor arrived at the secretariat, he was received with the national anthem and was led into the House. "Within the House, *Thamizh Thaai Vaazhthu* was recited first and the national anthem was recited at the end of the House proceedings. At no point was the national anthem was insulted," he said.

WHEELS OF FAITH

Devotees pull the chariot at Suchindram Sri Thanumalayan Swamy Temple in Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday | V KARTHIKALAGU

SpaDeX mission taken up at cost of ₹370cr

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MANY experts, however, are speculating the reasons. While some said the two were not aligned accurately for the docking to take place, others said the distance between the two was much more than what the scientists had announced and assumed. Some others speculated errors in calculation.

The docking of SDX01 and SDX02 was initially scheduled to take place on January 7. However, after reaching close to 500m, the drift was noted to be more than what was expected, post non-visibility period, and the mission was postponed.

On January 9, when ISRO had planned the docking, the scientists noted that the two spacecraft were at a distance of 225m, and that the distance between the two was shrinking and they were slowly moving to the set target. But later they found the two 1.5km apart, following which the mission was put on hold.

The SpaDeX mission, launched by ISRO's PSLV-C60 rocket on December 30, is being undertaken at a cost of Rs 370 crore.

Two kids burnt alive in haystack blaze in Odisha

ENS @ Berhampur

IN a tragic incident, two children were burnt alive when a haystack they were playing near caught fire and fell on them, trapping both inside, at Balakira village within Baunsuni police limits of Boudh district on Saturday evening.

The children, identified as Krishna Bhoi (5) and Krishna Urma (8), were uncle and nephew. The nephew Krishna hails from Basantbahal village and was visiting his uncle's house.

Sources said, the two kids while playing near the paddy threshing area outside the house had reportedly lit a bonfire to keep them warm due to the chill conditions. They had then reportedly entered a pit that was filled with straw.

Meanwhile, the fire reportedly spread to a nearby haystack and the blazing pile fell on the pit. The two children were trapped in the fire. Hearing their screams, the family members rushed to the spot and pulled them out of the burning straw. But, by the time they were rescued, the duo had suffered serious burn injuries.

Man kills estranged wife in Chennai bus stand, held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

AMID concerns about the safety of women in Tamil Nadu, a 42-year-old man was arrested for murdering his estranged wife in public view at a bus stand at Medavakkam Koot road late Saturday evening. After slashing the woman with a knife, he also allegedly knifed her partner who was with her at the time.

The woman was declared dead at the hospital, while the man is under treatment. Medavakkam police said the deceased Jyothi (37) married the accused Manikandan (42) of Triplicane in 2009. They have three children. A few years ago, they separated and Jyothi was living with the children at Medavakkam. She was in a relationship with Krishnamurthy (38), police said. A bitter Manikandan would often quarrel with her over this, said police. On Saturday morning, Manikandan met Jyothi and an argument broke out again.

According to sources, Manikandan ran into Jyothi and Krishnamurthy at the bus stand and was in an inebriated state when he allegedly stabbed them. Onlookers caught him and handed him over to the police

EXPRESS READ

SL Navy arrests 8 Indian fishers

RAMANATHAPURAM: The Sri Lankan Navy seized two mechanised boats carrying eight fishermen hailing from Rameswaram and Thangachimadam here on Sunday, for alleged violation of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and fishing in the Lankan waters. Fisheries department officials stated around 400 boats from Rameswaram ventured into the sea on Saturday. A patrol unit of the Sri Lankan Navy chased off a cluster of Indian fishing boats near the IMBL. As two of the boats remained in the Lankan waters, the patrol unit seized them and arrested the fishermen. Official sources from the SL Navy said the fishing boats were caught by the SL Navy Inshore Patrol Craft in the sea north of Mannar. The SL Navy has caught three Indian fishing boats and 18 Indian fishermen so far in 2025 ENS

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE LVI ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-57)
O.S No. 893/2024
BETWEEN : STATE BANK OF INDIA Rajajinagar Industrial Estate Branch, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010. Represented by its Deputy Branch Manager Mr. Abhinand A S/o Arul Bhoopathi R.A Aged about 35 Years PLAINTIFF
AND : Mr. Yashvantha Kumar S DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20(1) OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 1908
Mr. Yashvantha Kumar S No.83, Marur, Nagasandra, Magadi Ramangar, Bengaluru 560040
Whereas the plaintiff instituted a suit against you for recovery of Rs. 3,95,053/-(Rupees Three Lakh Ninety Five Thousand and Fifty Three only) along with interest @ 12.95% pa, on monthly compound interest basis together with cost and other charges from the date of NPA to till the date of realization.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court on 17/02/2025 at 11.00 A.M in person or through the Advocate/pleader to answer the question to the same failing which the suit will be heard and determined as Ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 07th day of January 2025
By Order of the Court
Sd/- Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court Bangalore
Padmashree M Advocate for Plaintiff
No. 29, 3rd Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Bhoopasandra Bangalore - 560094

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that my clients propose to purchase the below mentioned Property from its owner Mrs.VINAYA MALLYA, Wife of Mr.Vasudeva Mallya, No.146/8, Unit No.5, 2nd Floor, Supratha Court, 9th Main Road, 5th Cross, RMV Extension, Sadhashiva Nagar, Bangalore 560 080 who has represented that she purchased the Schedule Property from her vendor Sri.B.Shashidhar Reddy and Others and M/s. Shyamaraju & Co (India) Pvt. Ltd., in terms of a Sale Deed dated 18.11.2010 registered as Document No.5176/2010-11 in Book-I and stored in CD.No.VRTD86 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Varthur, Bangalore. Person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and / or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Ten days from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not bind my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no claimants/objections.
SCHEDULE
Apartment No.B-601 in Sixth Floor of 'PRATLE' Wing measuring 1527 Sq. Feet of super built up area in the multistoried residential building known as 'ELAN' built on property bearing Sy.Nos.15 and 23, situated at Kaikondarahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk together with 602 Sq. Feet of Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in property bearing Municipal No.87/15/23 (Khata No.VPCCR No.6/2004-05 of Doddakannalli Village Panchayat) with one covered car parking space in the Basement Floor and the Apartment is bearing Municipal Khatha No.87/15/23/B-601 of Kaikondarahalli, Bangalore in the records of BBMP.
Mr. K. P. RUPESH KUMAR, M/s.LAW CORP
Advocates & Consultants,
No.G3, Ground Floor, Mohan Towers, No. 98/2-27, Residency Road, Bangalore. (M) 9886761765
Bangalore, Date : 13/01/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Members of the public are hereby put on notice that our Client is negotiating with Sri. K Bagegowda S/o Late Kempaiah to purchase the immoveable properties listed in the Schedule hereunder.
Any person or persons having any claim, right, title, estate or interest in respect of Schedule Properties, or any part thereof by way of sale, transfer, exchange, assignment, mortgage, charge, gift, trust, covenant, inheritance, claim, possession, lease, sub-lease, license, lien, share, tenancy, sub-tenancy, maintenance, possession, devise, bequest, encumbrance by operation of law or otherwise, howsoever, is hereby requested to make their claim in the Schedule Properties or objections to the proposed transaction of sale in writing along with notarially/certified true copies of documentary proof to the undersigned, within 7 days from the date of publication hereof, otherwise the proposed purchase of the Schedule Properties shall be completed on the basis that there are no such claims or objections and such claims or objections which are not supported by notarized / certified documents are not bona fide and / or waived for all intents and purpose.
'SCHEDULE PROPERTIES'
Immovable properties situated in Singreepalya Village, Magadi Taluk, Kasaba Hobli Ramanagara District bearing Sy No: 29/2 measuring 5.30.00, Sy No: 25/20 (Old Sy No: 25/10) measuring 0.03.04, Sy No: 25/15 measuring 0.06.08, Sy No: 27/2 measuring 0.08.08, Sy No: 25/19 (Old Sy No: 25/10) measuring 0.03.04, Sy No: 25/21 (Old Sy No: 25/15) measuring 0.06.04, Sy No: 27/6 (Old Sy No: 27/2) measuring 0.08.08, Sy No: 35/7 measuring 0.35.12, Sy No: 28/1 measuring 2.34.00, Sy No: 27/9 (Old Sy No: 27/5) measuring 1.03.04, Sy No: 27/8 (Originally Sy No: 27/5, Old Sy No: 27/4) measuring 0.36.08, Sy No: 36/3 measuring 1.02.00; Totally measuring 13.17.10 Acres.
Issued By: Catalyst Law
Ground Floor, No: 7 Rajaram Mohan Roy road, Residency Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560025.
contact@catalystlaw.in and
smaran.shetty@catalystlaw.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client has negotiated/proposed to purchase a residential plot/site which is described in the Schedule hereunder from Mr.Kiran Parvatikar S/o Late Parvatikar .B.V, which have represented to our client that he is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule property and that he have vested with full power and absolute authority to deal with the same including the right of sale thereof.
Any Person/s having any right, title, interest, lien, charge or claim whatsoever, in and over the schedule property or any portion thereof, by way of any easement, tenancy, claims, inheritance, gift, partition, bequest, possession, mortgage, exchange or under any deed/instrument or otherwise, may submit his/her/their/its objection/claim/s, in writing to the undersigned at the below mentioned address along with supporting documents within fifteen days from date of publication of this notice, failing which my clients will proceed with the purchase transaction on the basis that there is/are no claims whatsoever in and over the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No. 161, Anjanapura 1st block, Anjanapura formed by the BDA and bearing PID No. 3217100119, measuring East to West 12 Meters and North to South 9 Meters in total measuring 108 Meters, and bounded on the:
East : Site No.147
West : Road
North : Site No.160
South : Site No.162
SHYAM SUNDAR, Advocate
Office at No. A-301, 3rd Floor, Brigade Majestic, Kalidasa Marg, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009. Mobile: 9844356136

ZUARI FARMHUB LIMITED
Regd. Office: Jai Kisaan Bhawan, Zuarinagar, Goa - 403726, INDIA
FarmHUB
Notice for Storage and Sale of 100%water soluble mixture of fertilizers
We are pleased to inform the general public that with reference to the order no. 2900 (E) dated 24th October 2015 issued by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare and amendment thereafter, Zuari FarmHub Ltd. (ZFL) will commence the storage and sale of below mentioned 100% water soluble mixture of fertilizers in the state of Karnataka.

Grades	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Specification / Composition	NPK with Micronutrients 10:09:16	NPK 00:60:20	NPK with Micronutrients 15:15:15	NPK with Micronutrients 05:25:15	NPKS with Micronutrients 12:27:05:07	NPK with Micronutrients 05:14:30	NPK with Micronutrients 05:30:28
Moisture per cent by weight, maximum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total Nitrogen per cent by weight, minimum	10.0	0.0	15.0	5.0	12.0	5.0	5.0
Water soluble Phosphorous(as P_2O_5) per cent by weight, minimum	9.0	60.0	15.0	25.0	27.0	14.0	30.0
Water soluble Potassium(as K_2O) per cent by weight, minimum	16.0	20.0	15.0	15.0	5.0	30.0	28.0
Sodium(as Nacl) per cent by weight on dry basis, maximum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Matter insoluble in water per cent by weight, maximum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Sulphur (as S) per cent by weight, minimum	2.0	-	2.5	7.0	7.0	-	-
Magnesium(as MgO) per cent by weight, minimum	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calcium (as CaO) per cent by weight, minimum	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zinc (as Zn) per cent by weight, minimum	-	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	-	1.0
Boron(as B) per cent by weight, minimum	0.003	-	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.3
Molybdenum (as Mo) per cent by weight, minimum	0.001	-	-	0.001	0.001	-	0.001
Total chloride(as Cl) per cent by weight on dry basis, max	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Lead(as Pb) per cent by weight, maximum	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
Cadmium(as Cd) per cent by weight, maximum	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
Arsenic(as As) per cent by weight, maximum	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.
DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.
Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as Non-performing Asset, whereas Jana Small Finance Bank Limited being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand notice calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Nithin R, S/o. Mr. D M Ramesh, Also at: M/s. Akash Consultant, 2) Mrs. Nandu K M	Loan Account No. 30139630000244 Loan Amount: Rs.4,00,000/-	Mortgaged Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the Residential property bearing No.111/103, situated at Siddarthnagar, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. East by: Site No.104, West by: Road, North by: Site No.100 & South by: Road. Measuring: 30 Ft X 40 Ft.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2025 Demand Notice Date: 09-01-2025	Rs.3,85,110.04 (Rupees Three Lakh Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred Ten and Paisa Four Only) dues as on 07-01-2025
2	1) Mrs. Rathnamma, 2) Mr. Venkatesh	Loan Account No. 45350430000022 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	Mortgaged Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of for Khaneshumari No.295/346/04, Measuring East to West 6.402 meter and North to South 10.670 meters situated at Uyyamballi Village, Uyyamballi Gram Panchayath, Uyyamballi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and Bounded on: East by: House belongs to Shivamallaiah, West by: House belongs to Sannamma, North: Road, South: House belongs to Venkatashetty.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2025 Demand Notice Date: 10.01.2025	Rs.4,89,435.33 (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Five and Thirty Three Paisa Only) due as on 07-01-2025
3	1) Mr. Siddesh D S, 2) Mrs. Ramamma	Loan Account No. 45359430001651 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	Mortgaged Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property No.152900200600200165/145/100/2, measuring East to west 7.62 meter and North to South 16.1544 meter, Situated at Doddakalbalu Village, Kottagalu Grama Panchayath, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagar District and Bounded on: East by: House belongs to Channamma, North by: Road, West by: House belongs to Motaiah, South by: House belongs to Siddaraju.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2025 Demand Notice Date: 10.01.2025	Rs.5,24,181.00 (Rupees Five Lakh Twenty Four Thousand One Hundred Eighty One Only) due as on 07-01-2025
4	1) M/s. Sri Neelakanteshwara Paints and Hardware, Prop. Mr. Ramesh, 2) Mr. Ramesh, Prop. of M/s. Sri Neelakanteshwara Paints and Hardware, 3) Mrs. Mamatha	Loan Account No. 45348640003643, 45349660000376 45389660000272 Loan Amount: Rs.66,00,000/- Rs.5,85,360/- Rs.4,90,000/-	Mortgaged Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.122, Kadabagere Village Gramathana Katha Old No.80/2 Prtesent V P Katha No.1231 Assessment No.80/2P2 Situated at Kadabagere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and Bounded on: East by: Private Property, West by: Site No.121, North by: Giddenahalli Road, South by: Site No.123. Measuring East to West: 29 feet and North to South: 51feet West Side 48 Sft .in Total 1435.5 Sq.ft.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2025 Demand Notice Date: 10.01.2025	Rs.45,17,799.06 (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Nine and Six Paisa Only) as on 07-01-2025
5	1) Mr. Shivakumar S, Also at: M/s. Shivakumar, Prop. 2) Mrs. Nalini S, W/o. Shiva Kumar	Loan Account No. 47519430001982 Loan Amount: Rs.36,32,269/-	Mortgaged Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property Site No.89/A, (Half of North Portion), Katha No.42, Assessment No.42/60 of Mallatahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently within the limits of BBMP, Ward No.129 in all measuring East to West 40ft and North to South 15ft in total 600 Sq.ft. and Bounded on the: East by: Road, West by: Property No.129C, North by: Property No.89B & South by: Southern Portion of the same property.	Date of NPA: 01-01-2025 Demand Notice Date: 10.01.2025	Rs.36,43,487.90 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Forty Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Seven and Ninety Paisa Only) due as on 07-01-2025

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within 60 days of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to Jana Small Finance Bank Limited against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.
Date: 13.01.2025, Place: Bangalore Rural & Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT COIMBATORE
(No.27, Jawan's Bhavan, Travelers Bungalow Road, Coimbatore)
O.A.No.144 of 2024
HDFC Bank Ltd (earlier HDFC Ltd), No.29, Kamaraj Road, Coimbatore-641018
-Applicant Bank
Versus
1) Shajee Lawrence, S/o. N.George Lawrence, No.470, Sri Vinayaka Nilaya, 13th Cross MIO Road, Electronic city, Bangalore-560076.
2) Anitha Sajee, W/o.Shajee Lawrence, No.470, Sri Vinayaka Nilaya, 13th Cross MIO Road, Electronic city, Bangalore-560076.
-Defendants
To :
THE DEFENDANTS
WHEREAS the Applicant has filed the above Original Application in O.A.No.144 of 2024 for recovery of money due along with interest and cost before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal, Coimbatore and it stands posted to 30.01.2025 for your appearance.
If you fail to appear before the Tribunal on 30.01.2025 at 11.00 AM either in person or by duly appointed Counsel, an ex-parte order will be passed against you.
S.Suresh Kumar,
A.Sakthi Kalyani,
Advocates,
F1, Ramani's Castle, Sengupta Street, Ram Nagar, Coimbatore- 641009.

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE

EDITORIAL

Leadership is not a popularity contest; it's about leaving your ego at the door. The name of the game is to lead without a title

Robin Sharma

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TAKE A HARDER LOOK AT DENIALS OF HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIMS

THE government has undertaken insurance sector reforms to ensure Insurance for All by 2047. The aim is to ensure every citizen has appropriate life, health and property insurance. Achieving this requires the effective participation of the private sector. However, unless the regulator addresses the issue of high claim rejections, especially by private health insurers, the goal of achieving high insurance penetration will remain elusive. Of late, the issue of high claim rejections by private health insurers has become a significant talking point. The IRDAI data shows private insurers rejected/disallowed, on average, claims worth ₹22 for every ₹100 they received in FY2024. The value of claims denied in FY2024 grew by 19 percent. The insurers disallowed claims worth around ₹15,000 crore (a growth of 18 percent year-on-year) as per 'terms and conditions of policy contract'. It means denying policyholders' claims, citing issues like non-disclosure of specific ailments or the existence of diseases excluded under the policy. Individual policyholders, especially in a particular age group (45 plus), are taken for a ride by private health insurers. Rejections owing to pre-existing conditions are commonplace. Insurance companies are not always upfront about exclusions while selling a policy to prospective customers. They hide certain policy conditions under the veil of jargonised policy documents. Rampant mis-selling—selling products that are not suitable for an individual or family—is a reality, and that has only helped increase the distrust between policyholders and the insurance sector.

Given that government insurance schemes are limited to a specific section of people, and corporate India offering very limited health coverage to its employees, most Indians depend on individual health policies from the private sector. However, growing distrust between insurers and policyholders is only worsening the situation. Notably, 40 percent of the healthcare expenses in India are borne through out-of-pocket costs. Given the healthcare inflation, Indian middle class is one medical emergency away from deep financial crisis.

Niti Aayog had proposed a health insurance scheme for covering 30 percent of the population neither protected by government schemes nor by private health insurance. The government and the regulator must also urgently address high claims rejections by private insurers to achieve better health insurance penetration in India.

ENSURE TIMELY JUSTICE TO DETER POLITICAL KILLINGS

KERALA'S political history is replete with timeless rivalries, gruesome violence, and the unending cycle of ideological killings. Violence remains a recurring theme here with many contributing factors. The encouragement extended by political parties is a major facilitator. The tardy criminal justice system is another. Take, for instance, the 2005 murder of DYFI activist Rijith in Kannur's Kannapuram. After nearly 20 years, a Thalassery court recently found nine BJP-RSS workers guilty and imprisoned them for life. Similarly, it took almost six years and multiple investigative agencies to punish those involved in the killing of two young Congress workers at Periya in Kasaragod in 2019. Among the accused a CBI court recently convicted in Kochi included a former CPM legislator and several party leaders.

Many similar cases are awaiting conclusion and are at various stages of investigation or trial. One such is the killing of young student Abhimanyu, allegedly by a Campus Front of India gang at Maharaja's College in Ernakulam in July 2018, as part of a tussle with the CPM-affiliated SFI. Abhimanyu's mother recently petitioned the Kerala High Court to expedite the trial, saying that the case was still in the preliminary hearing stage and charges have not been framed against the accused yet. She said that despite deferring the hearing multiple times to facilitate the appearance of the accused, who are out on bail, they mostly chose to skip the hearing.

While abuse of the judicial process is one reason for the delays, shoddy or biased investigation is another. In the Periya twin murder, for example, the verdict highlighted how the state-controlled crime branch, which initially probed the case before the CBI took it over, failed to record the statements of several key witnesses and omitted some CPM leaders. The long delays in ensuring justice for victims of political violence expose the holes in our investigative and judicial processes and the way the perpetrators can evade punishment with generous help from political patrons. Punishment ceases to be a deterrent when it is not dispensed in time. While fair investigation and trial are essential, there is also a need to expedite the whole process so that the punishment is awarded quickly and can serve as a strong message against the culture of political killings.

QUICK TAKE

WORK OR OVERWORK: LUXURY OR CHOICE

SUPER-rich industry honchos debate whether Indians should work more than the legal 48 hours weekly. Infosys' NR Narayana Murthy insists on 70 hours. Startup boss Daksh Gupta prefers 84 hours. L&T's SN Subrahmanyam pegs it at 90. In contrast, western capitalists try out relaxing four-day weeks and flexible hours. Their logic is humanising work, which the Indian industrialists should also adopt. But do most workers have the luxury of choosing to prefer humanised work, which makes them productive without eating into their private lives? Employers also know they are palming off overwork as a positive choice, realising it is not for millions chasing any employment.

For one's true nature to manifest itself, one must give up the false identifications congealed in the illusory entity called ego. It does not dissolve without a living master

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST AT THE DAWN OF 2025

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE

Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

SOURAV ROY

THE new year began with a certain stillness. The year just gone by, 2024, had been eventful, even turbulent. There was no guarantee that 2025 would be any different, let alone better, for myself or the world. But whatever happened outside, I knew I had to retain my inner poise and calm. And that would only come from the purity of intentions and cleansing of the inner being. Through *tapas*, *askesis*.

A new year's resolution materialised: accept, not expect.

Then, on January 2, I met Sri Nandkishore Tiwari, better known as Guruji, who said almost the same thing to me: "Don't expect anything from anyone."

He had sent me his book, *Sahaj Smriti Yog*, in original Hindi, asking me to write a preface or foreword. Unqualified to do so, I offered instead to write a shorter comment that might serve as a blurb or endorsement. I wrote it in Hindi, so let me translate, rather paraphrase, in English. "In this concise and concentrated booklet, Nandkishore Guruji explains and expounds '*Sahaja Smriti Yoga*'. In short, it is realising one's true nature through a transformative relationship with the guru. Through this process, a spectator becomes a seer.

The unique feature of *Sahaja Smriti Yoga* is that it eschews artificial, complex, and cerebral methods of self-realisation. It emphasises direct experience through *prajna* or intuitive understanding. We may also call it the reorientation of our mentality towards wisdom.

Like many other paths in Sanatana Dharma, the foundation of *Sahaja Smriti Yoga* is a simple, ethical life, including waking up early, daily meditation, physical labour, and being true in thought, word and deed. One's progress is nurtured in loving contact with the guru. Once the guru within us, the divine discernment, vision and self-realisation, is awakened, we can become the natural medium of transformation of others."

Rereading Guruji's book brought to my mind an interesting comparison—given how deeply embedded Hindutva is in our political and cultural discourse today—with V D 'Veer' Savarkar's definition of who or what is a Hindu. In *Essentials of Hindutva*, after claiming at the outset that "Hindutva is not a word but a history", Savarkar asserts, "Hinduism is only a derivative, a fraction, a part of Hindutva."

Savarkar's entire exposition is dynamic, fluid and exploratory rather than fixed or rigid as is made out by critics and admirers alike. Initially, a large portion of the text is devoted just to the semantics and politics of naming, starting with an investigation into the meaning of 'Hindu'.

Savarkar then insists on racial and cultural commonality, invoking a common history, culture and civilisation; rituals, practices and festivals; heroes, deities and gods. As also common enemies: "Nothing makes self conscious of itself so much as a conflict with non-self." Those who fought against the repeated waves of invaders were Hindus: "Sanatanists, Satnamis, Sikhs, Aryas, Anaryas, Marathas and Madrasis, Brahmins and Panchamas—all suffered as Hindus and triumphed as Hindus."

Only afterwards, Savarkar hones in on the nation or *rashtra*, the ideal that moulds the many into one, the enormous diversity "individualised into a single being". Finally, towards the end, we have his famous thesis: "These are the essentials of Hindutva—a common nation (*rashtra*), a common race (*jati*) and a common civilisation (*sanskriti*)."

The entire idea is captured aphoristically in his own inimitable Sanskrit summation: "*Aa Sindu Sindhu paryanta, Yasya Bharatbhumika Pitribhuh Punyabhushchaiva sa vai Hinduriti smritah.*" (From the Indus to the Indian Ocean, those who regard Bharat as their fatherland and sacred land are known as Hindus.)

Political, cultural, social, even psychological—yes. But where is the spiritual element in Savarkar's approach to the essentials of Hindutva? Can one worship an idea, or is vital contact with a living guru mandatory? Jump to Nandkishor Guruji, for whom the defining, if not only, trait of Sanatana Dharma is the guru-sishya *parampara* or transmission of self-knowledge from a living guru to a living disciple.

He says, "Since ancient times, only the guru-disciple relationship has been the carrier of transcendental discernment." This relationship, purely voluntary, arises not so much from choice as recognition. The guru, thus, becomes the missing link between *shruti* (revelation) and *smriti* (memory), turning the past into the present and the present into eternity.

The alchemy of transformation can neither be fully captured in words nor grasped in its entirety by the intellect. It must be experienced. For one's true nature to manifest itself, one must give up the false identifications congealed in the illusory entity we call the ego. And the ego does not dissolve without encountering a living master.

These were wonderful words to hear and beautiful moments to cherish so early in the year in Bengaluru. Guruji arrived before time. I was taken by surprise that he drove himself. We had lunch and some talk. Again, we met at his modest residence, quite far from mine. Bengaluru, being a city not only of distances but of the most congested roads in India, took its toll. I arrived late, after being driven for over two hours.

I apologised. But what is time in the ever and omnipresent flow of pure consciousness? "This time is yours; you can spend it as you like." This made me all the more conscious not only of lost moments or minutes but of years, decades, even lives. We continue in our selfsame foolish ways until we give it all up. But that is as difficult as crossing the ocean of *samsara*.

To get there, we must be the best, the most perfect version of ourselves. How is that possible when we see ourselves, like we do others, as terribly flawed, distressed, even doomed? It is the guru who shows that to us. He makes us believe we can indeed be our best selves. For what else are we but that?

Can we be equal to the task? Yes, because, as Guruji says, it is "Bharat that embodies the unbroken guru-disciple relationship since time immemorial".

(Views are personal)

(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

THE MAGIC CLASSICAL LANGUAGES POSSESS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

WITH the Mahakumbh starting on January 13, based on Jupiter's planetary revolution, it seems appropriate to recall some very human love stories with the source of this event, the Sanskrit language. But what is Mahakumbh? The legend goes that after the *Samudra Manthan* that day, Mahavishnu was carrying a *kumbh* (pot) of *amrit* (the elixir of immortality) when a scuffle broke out between the *devas* and *asuras*, four drops were spilled on earth. They fell at the four *tirthas* of Prayag, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain, a *tirtha* being a place where devotees hope to attain salvation. The next Mahakumbh will be in 2037. How did they know millennia ago about the 12-year revolution of Jupiter (Brihaspati) around the sun? The mind boggles.

As for the love stories, let's start with Frits Staal, the eminent Dutch-born Indologist. He was an emeritus professor of philosophy and South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California, having studied in Amsterdam and Varanasi, with his PhD from the University of Madras. I first met Frits in Bangkok 15 years ago, and he asked me to visit him at his house in the hills outside Chiang Mai.

Frits set great store by Rishi Yajnavalkya and was not best pleased with my levity in calling him "a big show-off" and "a bully". Only to annoy, I mailed him an old thing I'd written called '*What Gargi really said*'. He looked forward, he said, to talking about it. I should have run away right then to save myself from certain death-by-inadequacy, but though learned, Frits was interested, kind, and so bitingly funny that I said I would love to. "We will talk all day, eat, and walk in the woods," he mailed.

As a graduate student at the University of Amsterdam, Frits was keen on mathematics and philosophy. He specialised in mathematical logic. His interest in Indian philosophy was sparked by two lectures at the 10th International Congress for Philosophy held in Amsterdam in 1948: "One was by L E J Brouwer, the greatest Dutch mathematician since Christiaan Huygens. Brouwer put a long quotation from the *Bhagavad Gita* in the middle of a forest of mathematical symbols. The other lecture was by T M P Mahadevan of the University of Madras."

Entranced, Frits went to Madras in 1954 to learn Sanskrit, discovering it was more alive in India than classical Greek and Latin in Europe. He was influenced by Professor V Raghavan, a member of the Government of India Sanskrit Commission, whose report recommended the three-language formula and the creation of the Central Institute of Indology. Frits found Raghavan's outlook "truly universal", supporting not only Sanskrit but all classical languages and the study of living and popular cultures, of Munda, Dravidian, Nepalese, Tibetan, Central Asian, Chinese and Southeast-Asian studies, Egyptian, Hittite and Iranian histories.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Roberto Calasso was an Italian writer and publisher who was fluent in Italian, French, English, Spanish, German, Latin and ancient Greek. He fell in love with the Rig Veda after coming across a German translation of it, and resolved to learn Sanskrit to read the original version

Raghavan made Frits see "there was no limit to the interplay between traditions and innovations within a civilisation", that classical languages and Panini, whom Frits called India's Euclid, lit the path to the artificial languages of modern science as classical languages focus on the transmission of knowledge.

In 1975, Frits organised the 12-day Vedic sacrifice *Atiraatra-Agnichayana* with eminences Cherumukku Vaidikan and Itti Ravi Nambudiri in Kerala, supported by prestigious foreign funders. A monumental two volumes on *Agni* emerged in 1983.

"Do you have one reverent nerve?" he chuckled while I looked at his books and poured myself tea from a pot in a padded basket. Frits passed away before we could meet again. Thank you, Frits, for the chance to connect with your luminous mind and kind attitude.

Another such love story with Sanskrit befell Roberto Calasso, an Italian writer and publisher. Besides Italian, Calasso was fluent in French, English, Spanish, German, Latin and ancient Greek. It's said he was "a literary institution of one" and "the theme of his work is the relationship between myth and the emergence of modern consciousness".

While a student at the University of Rome, he happened to look at a German translation of the *Rig Veda* in the university library. He fell headlong in love and resolved to learn Sanskrit, so he could directly enter that world. Eventually, he wrote what I consider a grand retelling of Hindu theology, the dense, layered book *Ka*, in 1996. In it, he uses actual lines from Vedic hymns as dialogue so naturally that it stuns you. Even without spotting that, its elegance of mind makes it a wonderful read. I cannot recommend it enough to whoever may be interested.

I met Calasso several times in Delhi and interviewed him for Doordarshan in English. I cherish signed copies of all his books and keep rereading them.

Another such story is set in Tamil Nadu. A young boy in the temple town of Tiruvidaimarudur heard the *Sama Veda* being chanted every day on his way to school and its vibrations took hold of him. Remember, our music comes from the *Saman*. His father was in government service and wanted a modern career for him like any parent.

The boy did well in college to satisfy his father. But when it came to a job, he joined a Vedic *patashala* instead, submitting to its rigours for seven years. He earns a sketchy living as a priest serving society, but his contentment has to be seen to be believed. He was cheerfully saving up to buy a motorcycle with his scant earnings when I met him in 2009.

Such stories make you marvel at the magic classical languages possess to transform lives. What do you think?

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Neck and neck fight

Ref: *Why is Delhi important for Modi?* (Jan 12). When Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Assam to Ahmedabad are important for ebullient BJP, Delhi is no exception. In spite of all the negatives carried out by AAP like nepotism, scams, political high-handedness, etc, Arvind Kejriwal seems to be connected to the masses by arousing a sense of wokeism. So, one can expect a neck to neck electoral fight between AAP and BJP with a plausible slight swing in favour of AAP.

Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Enriching India

Ref: *Five problems to resolve in Budget 2025* (Jan 12). The five suggestions in structuring Budget 2025 are worth considering. Sharing public ownership, solar panels on highways and a few affirmative actions towards senior citizens will not only enrich the country but also make life bearable. Let's hope the big IF will cease to be so big.

Prahlad Chebbi, Dharwad

Simplify tax

In addition to the five problems referred to by the author for resolution in Budget 25, I feel we also need to add simplification and rationalisation of tax laws, increased government investment in core sectors like infrastructure, health, education and structural reforms towards ease of doing business.

R Sriramprasad, email

Relaxation time

Ref: *Planning our lives beyond work* (Jan 12). The author has rightly pointed out the need for the younger generation to reinvent their priorities in life and allot some time for relaxation and enjoyment. Life is small and it needs to be lived, not just existed.

G H V Ramanan, Coimbatore

Stress relief

Taking a break from work is essential. Yet, many people leave their vacation time unused. When we take a break, we're not shirking responsibility. We're taking care of ourselves so we will have the stamina to be our best. Recovering from work stress can restore energy and mental resources.

Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

Outrageous punishment

Ref: *'Punishment': 100 girl students forced to take off shirts inside school* (Jan 12). The outrageous punishment of the school principal of a school in Dhanbad is reprehensible. If the principal in question thinks celebrating Pen Day could sully the image of the school, innocuous punishments bereft of humiliation should have been given.

H P Murali, Bengaluru

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 61, No. 11 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Jyotiraditya M Scindia @JM_Scindia
Some old memories from boarding school, when communication was through letters.... I request everyone to write letters on important days, we have to keep this tradition alive together.

Randeep Surjewala @rssurjewala
The BJP government of Haryana sacrificed Aravali. The mining mafia ate up the mountain and the BJP government kept belching.

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39
My US friends are laughing away at reported India media news that "'India has been invited" for Trump's formal take over as US President.

● Modi says economy will cross $10 tn by next decade ● Strategic tunnel to provide all-weather connectivity to Sonamarg

Youth power vital for developed India: PM

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the power of youth will drive the economy and make India a developed nation by 2047.

"As we are entering a 25-year golden period, India will remain the world's youngest country in the coming decades. The increase in India's GDP will be driven by the power of youth. I am confident that the Yuva Shakti (power of youth) will translate the dream of a Viksit-Bharat," Modi said, addressing the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' here.

Lauding the creativity and out-of-the-box thinking of the youth, he said, "The youth of India are not thinking only sitting in closed AC rooms. The range of thinking of the youth of Bharat goes beyond the sky limit." Describing himself as a 'param-mitra' of the youth, Modi said the relationship is based on trust.

"India will certainly be a Viksit-Rashtra, where the economy will boom and ecology will bloom. Where there will be plenty of opportunities to earn and learn, where there will be the biggest skilled manpower in the world," he said. "No power can stop India from becoming a developed country if the spirit of 'Viksit Bharat' guides its every step, policy and decision," he added.

PM Narendra Modi visits an exhibition at Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue | PTI

'Economy will boom and ecology will bloom'

"India will certainly be a Viksit Rashtra, where the economy will boom and ecology will bloom. Where there will be plenty of opportunities to earn and learn, where there will be the biggest skilled manpower in the world," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said addressing the young leaders on Sunday. "No power can stop India from becoming a developed country if the spirit of 'Viksit Bharat' guides its every step," he added.

The PM said the ideas of the youth will be part of the country's policies and give it direction. Achieving ambitious goals requires the active participation and collective effort of every citizen of the nation, he said.

The PM cited the rise of the US following its economic crisis in the 1930s and Singapore's rise from a backward region to a major economic power to stress the need for setting big goals and sincerely working towards them.

"Swami Vivekananda said the young generation find solutions to all problems of India," Modi said at the event held on Vivekananda's birth anniversary, observed as the National Youth Day. Asserting that the Indian economy is on its way to becoming the third biggest in the world, he said it will cross $10 trillion by the next decade.

Modi to inaugurate 6.4 km Z-Morh tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir today

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will on Monday inaugurate the strategic 6.4-km Z-Morh tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir. This will give all-weather connectivity to the tourist destination Sonamarg in central Kashmir, allowing the travellers to visit the picturesque place throughout the year, boosting its tourism potential, and also reducing the travel time between J&K and Ladakh.

The Z-Morh tunnel has been constructed at a cost of over ₹2,700 crore. The project includes the main tunnel, parallel escape tunnel and a ventilation tunnel. The main tunnel is 10.8 metres long, with a modified horseshoe-shaped escape tunnel of 7.5 metres, D-shaped ventilation tunnel of 8.3 metres, two major culverts of 110 metres and 270 metres length, and one small culvert, which is 30 metres long.

The tunnel is equipped with cutting-edge technologies that provide real-time updates and seamless connectivity for users.

Situated at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, the Z-Morh tunnel will facilitate all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg enroute Leh, bypassing landslide and avalanche prone routes. "It will give uninterrupted connectivity from Srinagar to Sonamarg throughout the year, boosting local trade and tourism. Earlier, snowfall and avalanches used to cut off Sonamarg every winter," an official said.

The tunnel, he said, would also give enhanced access to Thajiwas glacier and white-water rafting on Sindh river.

The Prime Minister will meet construction workers, who have worked meticulously in the harshest conditions, acknowledging their contribution to this engineering feat. This will be his first visit to the Valley since an elected government led by Omar Abdullah took charge as J&K CM.

Canada's Indian-origin MP Anita Anand opts out of prime ministerial race

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

ANITA Anand, the Indian origin Member of Parliament of Liberal Party and Transport Minister, has decided not to run for the position Canada's prime ministerial race. The minister announced that she will not seek re-election as an MP and will return to her previous profession.

Foreign Minister Melanie Joly and Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc too have decided to quit the PM race.

Anand stated that she was following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's example and will start her career's next chapter by returning to academia. Taking to X she posted, "Today I am announcing that I will not be entering the race to become the next leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and will not be seeking re-election as Member of Parliament for Oakville. I will continue to honorably execute my roles as a public officer holder until the next election."

The transport minister said that prior to seeking public office, she was a lawyer and law professor for over 20 years at the faculty of law university of Toronto, where she took a leave of absence, intending to return one day to academia. She added that during her first campaign, several people said a woman of Indian descent would not get elected in Oakville, Ontario. Yet, she got their support not once but twice since 2019.

Lawyer, professor

Prior to seeking public office, Anita Anand was a lawyer and law professor for over 20 years, at the faculty of law at university of Toronto where she took a leave of absence, intending to return one day to academia.

Anand was also the visiting lecturer at Yale University in the US before becoming the MP from Ontario's Oakville in 2019.

Joly and LeBlanc have also decided to quit the race to succeed Trudeau, who announced last week his decision to quit.

Delhi polls: Cong promises ₹8,500 for jobless youths

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA @ New Delhi

AFTER women, the Congress aims to target youth in the lead-up to the Delhi assembly election with a new guarantee. In a major pre-election announcement, the party on Sunday promised to give ₹8,500 to every educated unemployed youth for one year under 'Yuva Udaan Yojana' if voted to power in the national capital.

Congress leader Sachin Pilot made the announcement on Sunday at Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee office. "This initiative is more than financial support. It is an investment in the future of Delhi's youth. We aim to provide them with work opportunities in industries aligned with their qualifications," Pilot said.

The announcement comes ahead of the crucial Delhi assembly election scheduled on February 5. The votes will be counted on February 8. The contest for the 70-member Delhi Legislative Assembly is expected to be a high-stakes battle between AAP, Congress and BJP as major players.

Pilot also took the opportunity to critique the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the BJP-led Central government, accusing them of failing to address the aspirations of the younger generation.

"The youth have been neglected for too long. Their struggles have only increased due to the flawed policies of the Central and state governments. Congress, however, is committed to providing practical solutions that not only offer financial relief but also enhance employability," Pilot said.

The 'Yuva Udaan Yojana' is part of a broader campaign strategy by the Congress, which has already announced two other key guarantees. On January 6, the party introduced the 'Pyari Didi Yojana,' offering ₹2,500 per month as financial assistance for women. Two days later, it launched the 'Jeevan Raksha Yojana,' promising free health insurance coverage of up to ₹25 lakh.

Pilot stressed the need for constructive politics, distancing the Congress from the "name-calling and blame game" that he claimed has dominated governance in recent years. "Delhi deserves a government that prioritises people," he said.

BJP seat-sharing talks with allies on, 4th list today

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP withheld its fourth list of candidates for the Delhi assembly election, scheduled to be released on Sunday. The party has so far announced candidates for 58 out of the 70 seats. The fourth list is now expected to be released on Monday.

According to party insiders, the delay was due to certain candidacies requiring further deliberation. This includes that of its firebrand leader Nupur Sharma, and some former Union ministers. "The other reasons include ongoing talks with Bihar-based NDA allies JD(U) and LJP, who also want to field candidates from seats with a significant Purvanchali population," said a senior leader.

Sources said BJP faced disagreements over candidate selection in several seats — including Babarpur, Gokulpuri, Wazirpur, Delhi cantonment and Shahdara — forcing it to tread cautiously.

INSIDER TRACK

Moving houses: 'To embrace new'

24, Akbar Road has witnessed much, right from the 1978 turmoil when Indira Gandhi was defeated, the Congress split, and the party organization found itself without an office. The address served its purpose as Congress is moving into its new headquarters, Indira Bhawan, at 9A, Kotla Road. It is the work of Hafeez Contractor, the architecture typically marked by its verticality--he is responsible for some of the tallest buildings in the country. But it took a long time coming. The word was out 15 years ago that Contractor was designing a new office for the Congress on Kotla Road (Rouse Avenue). The deadline for completion was 2018, but it faced extensions due to a lack of funds. The Congress says the exodus from Akbar Road is "designed to meet the evolving needs of the party and its leaders". Now, all it needs is a perfect date for the shifting. The Grand Old Party's foundation day would have been ideal if not for the passing of the man who had laid the foundation stone of the five-storey building —Dr Manmohan Singh. Having mourned his death, the Congress is ready to move into its new headquarters on January 15, the day of Makar Sankranti. Secular or not, we love our "auspicious occasions".

Indian origin? Indian pride

One thing they will never run out of is Indian-ness. And with the world brimming with successful Indian-origin people and leaders of all kinds, the media and the public keep the pride factory churning. From outgoing US Vice-President Kamala Harris to Kash Patel, Sriram Krishnan or Vivek Ramaswamy, who have come to occupy top echelons of the Trump administration, from former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to Anita Anand, a potential replacement for Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, we simply can't get enough. So when we discovered that Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam has a distinctly Tamil-sounding name, we quickly felt proud. His presidency is relatively new, but Shanmugaratnam has frequently visited India in various capacities. That only strengthened perceptions of his Indian origin. It must have ruffled a few feathers at the Sri Lankan embassy in the national capital because they hastily pointed out: "Shanmugaratnam is not an Indian Tamil. He is Sri Lankan Tamil." Well, you know how things are with South Asian identities! Never easy.

Diplomatic benefits of Yoga

For centuries, Yoga has nourished Indian health and ethos. How does it matter if India has a very high number of diabetes cases in the world? We still have Yoga. The ordinary citizen, too, is aware of its benefits. Plus, there's International Yoga Day. After encouraging every Indian to practice Yoga, the Ministry of External Affairs has taken it upon itself to share its benefits with foreign diplomats residing in New Delhi. As part of a pilot, Yoga instructors arrived at diplomatic residences in Dwarka and offices at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan. And guess what? It was a huge hit! Many diplomats reported feeling physically 'rejuvenated'. Others talked about 'miracle cures' for old ailments such as knee and back aches. 'Ancient wisdom,' we cheered. Some diplomats were so impressed that they requested their instructors for online sessions. 'Overwhelmed' by the feedback, the ministry is now looking to expand this wellness initiative, hiring three more yoga instructors to keep diplomats fit and sharp. Ideal candidates for the job? Preferably bilingual, aged 25-45, and ready to channel India's soft power for diplomatic benefits. Namaste for that!

Govt plans to revive district agro-met units

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

A year after closing down 199 district agro-met units (DAMU), the Central government is now planning to revive them with a solid framework on the 150th anniversary of the India Meteorological Department.

"Earlier, the DAMU was operating on an ad hoc manner in 199 districts, now we have evolved a permanent solution for more districts," said M Ravichandran, Secretary of Ministry of Earth Sciences, told this newspaper.

As a part of the pilot project of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, DAMU analyses how weather conditions will affect crops and passes on the information to millions farmers. In collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, DAMU's scientists sent advisories to farmers via WhatsApp group, text messages in local languages, local newspapers and community leaders.

On the advice of the think-tank body, NITI Aayog, the government decided to close down 199 district agro-meteorological units in March 2024.

Documents show the decision was opposed by a group of experts and even a Union minister as DAMU played an important role for the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers.

Started in 2019, DAMUs had provided free of cost agromet advisories service, twice a week, to around 145 millions of farmers across the country with a meagre budget of ₹45 crore. Government's own study shows that DAMUs' return benefits accounted for around ₹15,000 crore, based on how much farmers saved their crops after getting early warning and weather advisories. Even experts advised the NITI Aayog not to shut down DAMUs, arguing that the move would hit the income of 80% small and marginal farmers.

Amid allegation of privatisation of DAMU where farmers need to pay to get agromet advisory services, Ravichandran rejected it. "There was never a plan in place to privatise it or outsource the service. We discontinued the service only to establish a solid framework to run it on a permanent basis," said Ravichandran.

Before DAMUs operated in 2019, the Centre had launched the Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva in 2015 to provide day-to-day weather advisory services to farmers. Over the year, 130 agromet field units were established which issued advisory to 4-5 districts each. In 2018, the government came up with a plan to establish DAMUs in all 530 districts. Due to constraints posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the government only set up 199 DAMUs, officials said. Agriculture continues to be vulnerable to weather vagaries despite self-sufficiency in food grain production, and uncertainty in the prediction of those events further add to the challenges for farmers.

FREE WEATHER FRIEND

District agro-met units (DAMU) were a pilot project of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare started in 2019

DAMU analysed how weather conditions will affect crops and passed on the information to millions of farmers

WITH HELP FROM KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA, DAMU'S SCIENTISTS SENT ADVISORIES IN VERNACULAR LANGUAGES VIA WHATSAPP GROUPS, REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS

With a budget of **₹45 cr**, 199 DAMUs provided free-of-cost advisories twice a week to around **145 mn** farmers

On NITI Aayog's advice, the government closed down the DAMUs in March 2024

'Ensure pre-verification of academic credentials of Indians': Saudi circular

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

SIX months after proposing the idea, Saudi Arabia has issued a circular requiring pre-verification of the professional and academic qualifications of Indian workers for all work visa applications from January 14.

This move could reduce the influx of Indian workers due to the limited number of qualified training centres that ensure quality control.

Indians are the second-largest expatriate community in Saudi Arabia. As of 2024, over 2.4 million Indian workers live in Saudi Arabia, including 1.64 million in the private sector and 7,85,000 in domestic work. Bangladesh leads with 2.69 million expat workers. Indian workers, including women, remain a crucial part of Saudi Arabia's labour market and bring back remittances.

However, as part of Saudi Arabia's vision 2030, the labour sector is undergoing changes that include stricter certification requirements for respective jobs.

All applicants now need to validate their academic credentials. As per circular issued by the Saudi mission in India, "professional verification procedure for issuing work visa will be implemented on January 14."

"Therefore, the professional verification will become one of the mandatory requirements for issuing work visa," read the circular. However, there is a widespread complaint that there are not enough test centres from where the applicants can get certificates. "For instance, test centres for car drivers are located in Ajmer and Sikar in Rajasthan. Applicants, especially those from South are compelled to travel long distance to these locations, facing both linguistic and logistical issues," said Haris Beeran, a Rajya Sabha member, who has been taking up such issues with authorities.

Sources also point out that with a "clear vision to support Saudization efforts" that focuses on giving more opportunity to the local population, the aim is to "raise recruitment standards and attract skilled expatriate talent." That will make the recruitment standards go up. They said that this has also led to improvement in the situation of Indian workers.

Indians second-largest expat community

Indians are the second-largest expatriate community in Saudi Arabia. As of 2024, over 2.4 million Indian workers live in Saudi Arabia, including 1.64 million in the private sector and 7,85,000 in domestic work. Bangladesh leads with 2.69 million expat workers. Indian workers, including women, remain a crucial part of Saudi Arabia's labour market and bring back remittances to India.

ARSONIST FIREMEN

Two contractual employees of a fire station in Jaipur have been arrested for allegedly setting fires in factories to earn additional income, officials said. Probe into multiple fire incidents revealed suspicious movements of the duo.

6 KILLED | 22 INJURED AS BUS FALLS INTO GORGE IN GARHWAL

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	29	13	Mumbai	31	16
Bhopal	24	09	Panaji	33	23
Jaipur	22	10	Patna	23	13
Amritsar	13	11	Lucknow	21	10
Chennai	29	22	Port Blair	29	26
Kolkata	25	15	Imphal	23	07
Srinagar	06	-03	Chandigarh	18	11

■ 13,000 trains to operate, ₹5,000 crore spent in developing infrastructure for mega event ■ 200 working overtime to supply saffron 'gamchas'

Railways sets stage for Maha Kumbh

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Indian Railways has made elaborate preparations for the Maha Kumbh, anticipating a massive turnout of nearly 40 crore people at Prayagraj and connecting routes.

Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has inaugurated several key initiatives to enhance Indian Railways' readiness for the mega event. On Sunday, Vaishnaw said all arrangements are in place to ensure safe, seamless, and technologically advanced services for millions of pilgrims.

"The railway has invested about ₹5,000 crore in developing infrastructure for the Mahakumbh 2025 which include doubling of rail lines, building new platforms and developing high-quality platforms and others", the minister told media.

He inaugurated a dedicated Kumbh War room at the ministry level here at Prayagraj station. Vaishnaw said that railway police and state police are working together for the safety of passengers. "A total of 1,176 CCTV cameras have been installed at nine stations in the Prayagraj region to get live feeds for real-time monitoring. The war room will facilitate effective coordination between district authorities and railway officials, ensuring immediate assistance and operational efficiency", said the minister.

A total of 13,000 trains will operate during the Kumbh period, including 10,000 regular trains, 3,134 special trains and 1,869 short-distance trains. The Railways also runs 706 long-distance trains and 559 ring trains.

Sadhus of 'Shri Panchayati Akhara Bada Udasin' during their procession towards Sangam ahead of Maha Kumbh 2025 | PTI

Away from Sangam, ripples of discontent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AWAY from the Sangam, there are ripples of discontent in how the city has been hijacked by the event, but those voices are muted. Allahabad's liberals, who had spoken up in 2018 when the city's name was changed to Prayagraj, which they felt highlighted only the spiritual identity of the city and not its historical, literary, legal and civilisational vastness, now balance their criticism with developmental gains.

They weigh the merits of a six-lane bridge that will connect the city to Pratapgarh and UP's capital Lucknow, and four railway bridges in the city that have eased traffic movement against the shortcoming of "thousands of trees that have been cut at Sangam."

"Daan and kalpavaas comprise the core spirit of the Kumbh. The satsang, (devotional gatherings), the shastrarth parampara (the tradition of disputation among various spiritual-philosophical schools) – all have been eclipsed by this attempt to glamourise Hinduisim," said a government official on condition of anonymity.

This Kumbh is a religious, political and corporate affair, says Pranay Krishna, professor, Allahabad University. From the airport to inside the city, the messaging has been of power play.

Even cabinet ministers of other BJP-ruled states are expected to be here for the event. The disapora is expected in large numbers as well. Those who cannot be here can access "Digital Kumbh" from the comfort of their homes on their laptops, he said.

The graffiti on the walls, however, needs some supervision; many are left incomplete at prominent zebra crossings. Gond art, Mary Kom, the Royal Bengal Tiger — with no known connection to the Kumbh -- are found drawn close to the graffiti on walls around the city's well-known landmarks of Patthar Girja, the Allahabad HIgh Court and the Allahabad University's Muir Hall.

Baba Awasthi, a social activist, said "Inside the city, people are upset, not angry." Indeed, sudden roadblocks, diversion of traffic due to VIP movement, and the hunt for the elusive 'pass' that will allow you to be driven to the Sangam have miffed many and may keep them away from the Kumbh.

The waiter at El Chico, the city's fine dining restaurant that now sports a teal décor, bulbous gold ceiling lamps, a Kumbh panorama painting and a menu with some of the oldies phased out, however, can risk no ambiguity. One overheard him tell a customer: "It's just called minced lamb cutlet now. It's the old mutton chop, just the way we used to make it."

CHANDIGARH DIARY

HARPREET BAJWA
Our correspondent in Chandigarh
hsbajwa73@gmail.com

Sidhu back in action after long hiatus

Ending his long political break, former Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu recently met senior Congress leader and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Delhi. Taking to X, he posted Priyanka's photo and wrote, "Grace personified... Met 'Iron Lady of Indian Politics' @priyanakagandhiji today!!!" He then shared another picture with the MP. "Happy birthday to the one who makes every moment brighter, whose charm captivates – Aura that sparkles and dazzles mortal eyes... In prosperity friends aplenty, In adversity Rahul & Priyanka Gandhi..." Sidhu went on in his characteristic style.

Hooda may face penalty for not vacating house

Former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda may face penalties for not vacating his official residence allotted to him as the LoP in the previous assembly. The state government is considering imposing a penal rent for his failure to leave the residence within the specified time, sources say. Last month, Hooda requested an extension of fifteen days to vacate the house, but he is yet to do so. It is reported that BJP minister Vipul Goel has his eyes on Hooda's bungalow, House No 70 in Sector 7 of Chandigarh. Previously, the BJP government issued a notice to Hooda, asking him to vacate.

Sukhu to surrender subsidies on electricity

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has decided to forfeit subsidies on all five electricity meters registered in his name. In the state, there is a power subsidy of 125 units for each meter, which means he has been receiving a total subsidy of 625 units. He has submitted the necessary form to the Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board regarding his decision. Sukhu emphasized that affluent citizens with multiple electricity meters should give up their subsidies to help support the state's development. It has also come to the chief minister's notice that many other individuals are benefiting from power subsidies.

Bhagalpur weavers bag ₹5 cr contracts

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE weavers of Bhagalpur in Bihar are on cloud nine after receiving contract orders of saffron-coloured 'gamcha' (towel), sarees, shirts, and other pieces of silk clothing for the Maha Kumbh Mela starting January 13 at Prayag Raj in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh.

Around 200 weavers of Bihar's Silk City are working overtime to meet the deadline. A senior functionary of the Bhagalpur Weavers' Association said the weavers have received contract orders worth ₹5 crore. "The demand may go up in the days to come. Orders have been placed for saffron-coloured towels, sarees, shirts and bandis in bulk. We are working overtime to meet the deadline," said Mohammad Tariq, a weaver of Champanagar.

He said the cloth merchants of Prayag Raj have given the weavers a 15-day deadline for the supply of 15,000 sarees, 10,000 shirts, and 1,000 bandis made of matka silk.

"We are more than happy with these orders," revealed Tariq, who has been in the business for over 15 years. Champanagar, a hub of weavers who usually wore a deserted look, is buzzing with activities these days. A Bhagalpur-based garments dealer, Kaushal Kumar, said that he has received orders of bandis and shirts made of linen. "The bandis and shirts, all in saffron colour, are being prepared at the 'karkhana' (stitching shop)," he said.

At least 70 weavers are engaged in supplying Bhagalpuri silk sarees, lehenga, quilts and other clothes to foreign countries such as Russia, Nepal, US, Italy and Japan. Another weaver Mohammad Tahsin Sabab said that the saffron-coloured 'gumcha' are the favourite of Nagas and saints.

5 Maoists killed in encounter in C'garh's Bijapur

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

FIVE Maoists including two women cadres were killed in an exchange of fire with the security forces at the Bandepara-Koranjed forested terrain under the Indravati National Park in strife-torn Bijapur district about 400 km south of Raipur on Sunday. "On Sunday morning, there ensued an intermittent exchange of firings that continued till the evening between the forces and the Maoists. After the encounter, the forces have recovered five bodies of Naxalites including two women in uniform during the search operation", said Sundarraj P, Bastar range inspector general of police.

The efforts to identify the deceased are underway as the search operation continues.

The forces had also recovered one self-loading rifle, two single shot rifles, one BGL launcher, one country made gun besides explosives, naxal literature and materials from the scene.

SAD yet to fully implement our directives: Akal Takht

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

AKAL Takht jatheder (high priest) Giani Raghbir Singh has said that the Shiromani Akali Dal is yet to implement their edict fully, adding that SAD cannot overlook the seven-member committee set up to reorganise the party.

Committee members will approach Akal Takht to seek directions and proceed accordingly, indicating that a fresh stand-off is on the cards. Singh has asked the SAD to make operational the panel headed by SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dhami. He said the seven-member panel formed by the temporal seat of Sikhs was in existence and the party would have to abide by its directions. "N on-implementation of the order amounted to dilly-dallying," he added.

"In compliance with the decree of Akal Takht a meeting of the SAD working committee was held during which the resignation of Sukhbir Singh Badal was accepted. It is a welcome move. But the seven-member committee constituted by Akal Takht Sahib has not been dissolved. It still stands and should start working... We can say that the SAD is showing reluctance in implementing the directives," said Singh.

Talking to this newspaper, rebel Akali Dal leader Gurpartap Singh Wadala says, "All the seven members of the committee will be calling on the Jathedar shortly and ask him for the further directive for them. Akali Dal should have followed the edict of the Akal Takht in totality. Also a sfool-proof method has to be adopted for the membership drive in the party so that there is no fake membership."

Meanwhile party's Dakha MLA and leader of legislative party Manpreet Singh Ayali and party's Panthic advisory board member Santa Singh Umaidpur refused to accept the new duties allocated to them by the working committee.

Men found taking Maiyan aid in J'khand, FIR lodged

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

EVEN as thousands of women recently took to the streets for being denied the financial aid under Maiyan Samman Yojana, men have been found taking benefits of the scheme in Jharkhand. According to officials, at least two men have been found getting the aid for the last four months.

The two men have been identified as Aanand Kumar Prajapati from Majhura village and Rupesh Ghasi from Telmunga under Kasmar block of Bokaro district.

Kasmar block development officer Namrata Joshi said Prajapati was running a Pragya Kendra and taking the assistance in his bank account by submitting an application form filled up in his name.

"An FIR has been lodged against Prajapati at Kasmar police station after recovering ₹6500 received by him in five installments, ₹1000 four times

and ₹2,500 once," Joshi said, adding his Pragya Kendra licence has been cancelled.

The BDO said the entire amount has also been recovered from Ghasi but no FIR has been filed against him due to technical reasons – he was an employee at the Pragya Kendra and was not using his own ID for filling up the form. "We are waiting for the directions from senior officials, on the basis of which further action will be taken," Joshi said.

In another case, Dashmi Kumari of Araju village in Bokaro has written an application to the BDO, requesting that the assistance given to her is being credited into the back account of one Satosh Kumar whom she does not know.

Santosh's account number has been entered instead of her bank account number, and the money should be recovered from Santosh and transferred to her account, she said.

So far, ₹6500 has been transferred to Santosh's account. Earlier, following reports that several women not eligible for the scheme have been taking benefits, a campaign was launched in the state to identify such people and remove their names from the beneficiary list. The directorate of social security has asked the district collectors to delete the names of ineligible beneficiaries and submit reports.

Adorned in snow, Uttarakhand mountains beckon

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

UTTARAKHAND saw a delightful change in weather on Sunday, as heavy snowfall and rain swept across various regions, causing a significant drop in mercury levels. Areas such as Nainital, Auli, Chakrata, Mussoorie, and their surroundings were blanketed in a thick layer of snow.

"The mountains draped in a white sheet of snow look nothing short of paradise," remarked a local resident, capturing the beauty of the winter landscape.

In addition to the snowfall in the hilly areas, the plains experienced rain, accompanied by dense fog. Notably, Nainital welcomed its first snowfall of the year, much to the joy of both residents and tourists. "It's a magical sight to see the first snow of the season," said a visitor, enthralled by the charm of the winter wonderland that Uttarakhand has become.

Dehradun has been under a thick blanket of clouds for the past two days as mercury levels continue to fall, leading to a significant increase in cold conditions. The biting cold has made life quite challenging for residents of the hilly terrain. "The severe cold is really taking a toll on us," remarked a local shopkeeper, highlighting the harshness of the weather.

Streets enveloped in a blanket of snow in Uttarakhand's Nainital on Sunday | EXPRESS

There is a possibility of clear weather in the hilly districts starting Monday. On Sunday, the weather suddenly changed, resulting in heavy snowfall in the higher regions.

Dr Bikram Singh, Director, Meteorological Department

Morning fog and mist have further complicated matters, making it difficult for commuters. Despite the mercury dropping three degrees Celsius below normal, the weather in Dehradun has turned out to be colder than several other hill stations, including Mussoorie and Nainital. "It's surprising how much colder it is here compared to the hills," said Jasmeet Anand, an IT professional who is based in Dehradun, reflecting on the unusual weather patterns this season.

The local administration set up bonfires in various areas in the city during the day, while government offices recorded low attendance, remaining unusually quiet.

Dr Bikram Singh, Director of the Meteorological Department, informed this newspaper, "There is a possibility of clear weather in the hilly districts starting Monday."

"On Sunday, the weather suddenly changed, resulting in heavy snowfall in the higher regions," he added.

According to the meteriological department , Haldwani recorded the highest rainfall in the state at 17 mm. Other areas received the following amounts: Someshwar 15 mm, Haridwar 14 mm, Roorkee 12 mm, Laksar 10 mm, Mukteshwar 10 mm, Dehradun 10 mm, Nainital 9 mm, Srinagar 8 mm, and Tharali 5 mm.

Brahmins, OBC families face social boycott over prasad offered by Dalit

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

RESIDENTS of a village in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district have alleged that they were ostracized in their village, at the behest of the sarpanch for consuming prasad (religious offering) given by a Dalit.

Around 20 families who have alleged social boycott by the other members of the Atrar village in Bundelkhand, hail not just from scheduled caste, but also include families from the upper castes (particularly Brahmins) and those from the other backward castes (OBCs).

While one side, led by the ex-sarpanch (hailing from the scheduled caste), has alleged ostracization in the village by the other group, the other side which, headed by the current sarpanch (a Brahmin) too has approached Chhatarpur district police, alleging that false accusations are being made against them out of long-standing differences.

The police as well as the Chhatarpur district panchayat have started a probe in the matter.

The caste of water

Eight years back, a 9-year-old scheduled caste boy in Bundelkhand's Damoh district had drowned in a well, where he had gone to drink water after being denied access to a hand pump in school as he was Dalit.

The group alleging ostracization claims they have been excluded from social events, like marriages only because they had consumed laddoos distributed as 'prasad' by an Ahirwar caste (a scheduled caste) man following fulfillment of a prayer some months back.

While confirming complaints from both sides, the Chhatarpur district police superintendent Agam Jain told this daily on Sunday that investigations are underway.

Notably, the ex-village sarpanch has been at odds with the other group led by the present sarpanch for many years. "The group led by the present sarpanch had opposed the previous sarpanch for allegedly squatting on a Gram Sabha land some years back. Also, an upper caste man who is part of the group alleging ostracization was formerly accused in a murder case, which he feels was lodged against him because of the other group. Old conflict of interests between two groups being behind this matter of alleged ostracization cannot be ruled out," a police officer claimed.

Chhatarpur district where the concerned village is situated is part of the Bundelkhand region which, along with Gwalior-Chambal, Vindhya and some parts of Malwa region, is sharply divided on caste lines and have witnessed violent caste rivalries in the past.

Chhatarpur district, where the concerned village is situated, is part of the Bundelkhand region which, along with Gwalior-Chambal, Vindhya and some parts of Malwa region, is sharply divided on caste lines and have witnessed violent caste rivalries in the past.

68
People injured after two trams collided in France

GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	8	-2	SNY	Los Angeles	19	9	SNY
Colombo	31	24	SNY	Melbourne	25	17	SNY
Dhaka	23	14	SNY	Moscow	-1	-6	LS
Dubai	22	15	SNY	New York	3	-3	SNY
Houston	11	16	LC	Singapore	27	19	LR
Istanbul	11	8	LC	Toronto	-1	-5	SNY
London	2	-4	SNY	Washington	6	-4	SNY

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

RETURN OF STRONG WINDS MAY PUSH BLAZE TOWARDS LANDMARKS IN L.A.

LOS ANGELES

A fire fighting helicopter drops water as the Palisades fire spreads in California | AFP

THE death toll from the wildfires ravaging the Los Angeles area rose to 16 as crews battled to cut off the spreading blazes before potentially strong winds return that could push the flames toward some of the city's most famous landmarks.

Five of the deaths were attributed to the Palisades Fire and 11 resulted from the Eaton Fire, the Los Angeles County coroner's office said in a statement Saturday evening.

The previous number of confirmed fatalities before Saturday was 11, but officials said they expected that figure to rise as teams with cadaver dogs conduct systematic grid searches in leveled neighborhoods. Authorities have established a center where people can report the missing.

Joseph Everett, assistant chief of the Los Angeles Fire Department's west bureau, said it has been difficult to see such destruction in an area where he, his father and grandfather all have worked as firefighters.

"It resonates with me heavily," he said at a community meeting Saturday night. "Please be patient as we are up there ... we're still aggressively fighting fire out there."

There were fears that winds could move the fires toward the J Paul Getty Museum and the University of California, Los Angeles, while new evacuation warnings left more homeowners on edge.

By Saturday evening, Cal Fire reported the Palisades, Eaton, Kenneth and Hurst fires had consumed about 160 sq kms, an area larger than San Francisco. The Palisades and Eaton fires accounted for 153 sq kms.

In a briefing posted online Saturday evening, Michael Traum of the California Office of Emergency Services said 150,000 people in Los Angeles County were under evacuation orders, with more than 700 people taking refuge in nine shelters.

Crews from California and nine other states are part of the ongoing response that includes 1,354 fire engines, 84 aircraft and more than 14,000 personnel, including newly arrived firefighters from Mexico, he said.

With Cal Fire reporting containment of the Palisades Fire at 11% and the Eaton Fire at 15% on Saturday night, the fight is set to continue.

"Weather conditions are still critical and another round of strong winds is expected starting Monday," Traum said.

A fierce battle occurred Saturday in Mandeville Canyon, home to Arnold Schwarzenegger and other celebrities not far from the Pacific coast, where swooping helicopters dumped water as the blaze charged downhill.

Firefighters on the ground used hoses in an attempt to beat back leaping flames as thick smoke blanketed the chaparral-covered hillside. The National Weather Service warned that strong Santa Ana winds could soon return. *AP*

BLAST IN HOUTHI-HELD AREA

15 killed, 67 others injured at Yemen gas stn explosion

CAIRO

AN explosion at a gas station triggered a massive fire in central Yemen, killing at least 15 people, health officials said on Sunday. The explosion occurred on Saturday at the Zaher district in the province of Bayda, the Houthi rebel-run Health Ministry said in a statement. At least 67 others were injured, including 40 in critical condition.

The ministry said rescue teams were searching for those reported missing. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the explosion. Footage circulated online showing a massive fire that sent columns of smoke into the sky and left vehicles charred and burning.

Bayda is controlled by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, who have been at war with Yemen's internationally recognized government for more than a decade. Elsewhere in Bayda, the Houthis attacked and looted Hanaka al-Masoud village in the al-Qurayshiya district last week, according to the internationally recognized government. It said there were fatalities but gave no figures.

Information Minister Moammar al-Eryani said the attack came after a weeklong siege of the village.

"This horrific attack targeted citizens' homes and mosques, and resulted in many casualties, including women and children, and the destruction of property," he said.

Rights activist Riyadh al-Dubai said the Houthis detained dozens of men and looted homes, seizing valuables such as gold, money, daggers and other possessions. He said shelling by the Houthis had continued relentlessly day and night for more than five days.

The US Embassy in Yemen condemned the attack, saying in a statement that the "deaths, injuries, and wrongful detentions of innocent Yemenis perpetrated by Houthi terrorists are depriving the Yemeni people of peace and a brighter future."

Yemen's civil war began in 2014, when the rebels took control of the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north, forcing the government to flee to the south, then to Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015, backed at the time by the US, in an effort to restore the internationally recognized government.

The war has killed more than 150,000 people. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

YOON TO SKIP HEARING OF IMPEACHMENT TRIAL ON JAN 14

SEOUL: South Korea's suspended President Yoon Suk Yeol will not attend the first hearing of his impeachment trial next week because of safety concerns, his lawyer said. "Concerns about safety and potential incidents have arisen. Therefore, the President will not be able to attend the trial on January 14," lawyer Yoon Kab-keun said in a statement. "The President is willing to appear at any time once safety issues are resolved." The Constitutional Court has scheduled five trial dates spanning January 14 to February 4, which will proceed in his absence if he does not attend. The court will decide whether to uphold his impeachment or restore him to office. *AP*

HDFC BANK

HDFC BANK LIMITED

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**Mrs. Shwetha Sachin Sirur** Wife of Mr. Sachin Mohan Sirur (Borrower) [since deceased] **Master. Samarth Sachin Sirur** Son of Mr. Sachin Mohan Sirur (Borrower) [since deceased] **Mrs. Geetha Mohan Sirur** Mother of Mr. Sachin Mohan Sirur (Borrower) [since deceased] **And other known and unknown Legal Heir(s)** of Mr. Sachin Mohan Sirur (Borrower) [since deceased] Represented by Natural Guardian Mrs. Shwetha Sachin Sirur, Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Sachin Mohan Sirur, **All are residing at:** 10 Akansha 2nd Cross, Gundappa Gowda Road, Ejipura, Neelasandra, Bengaluru-560047. **Also at:** Akansha, No 281(57/1), 2nd Cross, Gundappa Gowda, Ejipura, Austin Town, Bengaluru -560047. **Also at:** Flat No C101, Block-C, Vaishnavi Nakshatra Apartment, Yeshwanthapura, Tumkur Road, Bengaluru- 560022. **Mrs. Shwetha Sachin Sirur** Wife of Mr. Sachin Mohan Sirur (Borrower) [since deceased] **Master. Samarth Sachin Sirur** Son of Mr. Sachin Mohan Sirur (Borrower) [since deceased] Represented by Natural Guardian Mrs. Shwetha Sachin Sirur, Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Sachin Mohan Sirur, **Both are residing at:** Flat No: 301, Zelam Society, Sheela vihar Colony, Erandwana, Karve Road, Pune – 411004.	**Loan A/c Nos.** **(1) 605552063 Rs.30,92,321/-** **(2) 623159515 Rs.11,56,605/-** **Total Amount Rs.42,48,926/- (Rupees Forty Two Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty Six Only) as on 30.11.2024**	02.01.2025 ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.09.2024**	***Larger property:*** All that Property measuring **2,86,407 sq. feet** (less 49,482 sq. feet surrendered to Bangalore Development Authority) in Sy.No.97/2C (previously Sy.No.97/1) and 98 of Yeshwanthapura Village, Bangalore Taluk and later on the said Property coming within the jurisdiction of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike is assessed for municipal property taxes and assigned with Municipal Nos.9/36 and 9/36/2 and clubbed into one Municipal No.9/36, situated in Tumkur Road, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore and bounded by: **East :** Service Road, Office of RNS Motor Unit II, Property bearing Municipal No.28/11; **West :** Plywood Factory, Sasikiran Investment, Property bearing Municipal No.36/1 Viswas Apartment Complex bearing Municipal Nos. 10/1/9 and 10/1/10; **North :** Steel Construction Factory and Suman Sugiamma Plastic Ltd., Property bearing Municipal No.10 and other Properties; **South :** Bangalore - Tumkur Road; ***Schedule A:*** All that Property measuring **1,67,601 Sq. Ft.,** forming portion of Larger Property and bearing Municipal Nos.9/36 and 9/36/2 and clubbed into one Municipal No.9/36 situated in Tumkur Road, Yeshwanthpura, Municipal Ward No.2, Jalahalli, Bangalore and bounded by:- **East :** Service Road and Property bearing Municipal No.28/11 ; **West :** Property bearing Municipal No.36/1 ; **North :** Property bearing Municipal No. 10 ; and **South :** Commercial Building described in Schedule 'F herein. ***Schedule B:*** **462 Sq. feet** Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property. ***Schedule C:*** All that Residential Apartment bearing **No.C-101 in First Floor of 'C Block,** in the Project **"VAISHNAVI NAKSHATRA'** being built in Schedule A' Property and totally measuring **1699 Sq. Feet of super built up area** approximately, inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and with right to use **One Covered Car Parking Space** in the Lower/Upper Basement Floor or in Ground Level and the apartment is bounded by: **East :** Entrance, Lobby and Staircase in First Floor in "C Block of VAISHNAVI NAKSHATRA1, **West :** Open towards Open Space in "C Block of VAISHNAVI NAKSHATRA1, **North :** Open towards Open Space in "C Block of VAISHNAVI NAKSHATRA1, **South :** Lift Lobby and Apartment No.C-104 in First Floor in C Block of "VAISHNAVI NAKSHATRA1. The walls are built out of Solid Blocks and Cement with RCC Roofing and Vitrified/Ceramic Flooring and it has electricity, water and sanitary connections. The Door sets are of engineering doors and windows are aluminium windows.
2	**Mrs. Shweta Laxminarasimha Reddy (Borrower)** **Cisco Systems (India) Private Limited** **Designation:** Senior Software Engineer **Department:** 123021580 Engg **Employee No:** 865612 Cessna Business Park, Kadubeesanahalli Village, Vathur Hobli, Sarajpur Marathalli Outer, Bangalore G P O, Bengaluru 560001. **Mrs. Shweta Laxminarasimha Reddy (Borrower)** **Mr. Laxminarasimha Reddy (Co-Borrower)** **Both are residing at:** No. 104, Ground Floor, Paras Mehak Apartment, 36th Cross, East End Main Road, Jayanagar 9th Block, Jayanagar East, Opp Maheshwari Theatre, Bengaluru-560069.	**Loan A/c Nos.** **1) 621369468 Rs.20,43,606/-** **2) 621369547 Rs. 5,75,346/-** **Total Amount: Rs.26,18,952/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Two Only) as on 30.11.2024**	03.01.2025 ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.08.2024**	**Schedule - A:** All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing Municipal **No.1/1** situated at East End - B Main Road, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, having PID No.64-136-1/1, measuring East to West :50 feet and North to South: 87 feet, in all measuring **4356 Square feet** and bounded as follows **East by :** Private property, **West by** : Private property, **North by** : Road, **South by** : Remaining portion of the land. **Schedule – B:** Share corresponding to **294 Sq.ft.,** of undivided right, title and interest in the schedule A property to be conveyed to the purchaser herein. **Schedule - C:** All that piece and parcel of Apartment bearing **Flat No.104,** situated on the **Ground Floor** in the apartment building known as **"PARAS MEHAK"** constructed in the property described in the schedule A property hereto, with a **super built up area of 1112 Sq.ft.,** (including half depth of common walls) with **one reserved covered car parking space** in stilt/ basement, built with Hollow Blocks, RCC Roof, Aluminium windows, Hardwood Door Frames with Flush Shutters and Ceramic Flooring.
3	**Mr. Pramanik Avijit (Borrower),** Flat No. 201, Balaji Serenity, Andapura, Electronics City, Near Gold Coin Club, Bengaluru-560100. **Mr. Pramanik Avijit (Borrower),** Animazione Visual Studio Private Limited, **Designation:** Director. **Mrs. Dey Nabina (Co-borrower)** Animazione Visual Studio Private Limited, **Designation:** Director, **M/s Animazione Visual Studio Private Limited (Co-Borrower-2), All are residing at:** No.1862,3rd Floor, Prabhat Arcade, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala 8th Block, Bengaluru -560095. **Also at:** Unit-33, Dollars Colony, Onnalvadi Village, Hosur Taluk,Kishnagiri Dist, Hosur 635109. **Mr. Pramanik Avijit (Borrower),** **Mrs. Dey Nabina (Co-borrower)** **Both are residing at:** Flat No.G-303, Concorde South Scape, Andapura, Electronics City, Near Gold Coin Club, Bengaluru-560100.	**Loan A/c Nos.** **1) 644265523 Rs.24,87,817/-** **2) 644265561 Rs.15,24,417/-** **3) 645084519 Rs. 51,534/-** **4) 645230073 Rs. 61,070/-** **Total Amount: Rs.41,24,838/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Eight Only) as on 30.11.2024**	02.01.2025 ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.10.2024**	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Plot No. 33 (Thirty Three)** in the HNDTA approved layout (vide approval No.22/2017) known as **'DOLLARS COLONY'** bounded as follows: **East by** : 30 feet Wide Layout Road, **West by :** Private Property, **North by :** Private Property, **South by :** Plot No. 34. **Within boundaries measuring:-** East to West on North Side : 76.60 feet, East to West on South Side : 66.00 feet, North to South on East Side : 63.10 feet, North to South on West Side : 36.30 feet, totally measuring **3532 sq. ft.(Three Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Two Square Feet),** vacant site including common rights in the said layout with all constructions thereon situated at Survey Number 700/2A, in Onnalavadi Village, Hosur Taluk, Kishnagiri District, **Hosur,** Tamilnadu.
4	**Mrs. Prianka Mukherjee Wife of Mr. Surath Mukherjee (Borrower)** [since deceased] **Master Sohan Mukherjee Son of Mr. Surath Mukherjee (Borrower)** [since deceased] Represented by natural Guardian Mrs. Prianka Mukherjee **Mrs. Suchitra Mukherjee Mother of Mr. Surath Mukherjee (Borrower)** [since deceased] **And other known and unknown Legal Heir(s) of Mr. Surath Mukherjee (Borrower)** [since deceased] Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Surath Mukherjee **All are residing at:** 402, Rockview Residency, MLA Layout BG Road, Kalema Agrahara, Bannerghata Road, Near Qan Garden, Bengaluru-560076. **Also at:** Plot-93B, Prakruthi Park (Prjcts) S.No.1/2,1/4,1/5A,1/5B1,1/5C,2/6,2/8,2/9,132/3B, Kagganur, Chokkarasanapalli Village, Sevaganapalli Hosur Tq, Krishnagiri- 635001.	**Loan A/c Nos. 619178122 Rs.4,22,463/- (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Three Only) as on 30.11.2024**	02.01.2025 ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.09.2024**	***Schedule A: ITEM No.I:*** All the piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing survey number: 1/2, admeasuring Ac.2.16 Cents, survey number: 1/4. admeasuring Ac. 1.46 Cents, survey number: 1/5. Now Sub-divided as survey number: 1/5B. admeasuring Ac.0.72 Cents, survey number: 1/5C, admeasuring Ac. 1.12 Cents Full extent, and survey number: 2/6. admeasuring Ac.0.53 Cents, of Kagganur Village of Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, attached to Village Panchayat limits of Sevaganapalli And Union council of Hosur; ***ITEM No.II:*** All the piece and parcel of the Residentially converted Lend bearing survey number: **132/3.** Now Subdivided as survey number: 132/3C. admeasuring Ac.0.02 Cents, survey number: 132/5. admeasuring Ac.0.25 Cents , survey number: 132/6. Admeasuring Ac.0.06 Cents, survey number: 133/1. admeasuring Ac.0.86 Cents, survey number: 133/2. admeasuring Ac. 1.06 Cents, survey number: 133/3. admeasuring Ac.0.61 Cents, Survey Number: 132/4. Sub Division survey number: 132/4B. Now Subdivided as survey number:132/4B1, admeasuring Ac.0.66 Cents of Chokkarasanapalli Village of Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, attached to Village Panchayat limits of Sevaganapalli And Union council of Hosur. ***Schedule B:*** All that piece and parcel of residential site bearing **No.93B,** admeasuring East to West on the North Side 50 Feet and East to West on the South Side 50 feet, and North to South on the East side 21 feet and North to South on the West side 31 feet, totally admeasuring **1300 Square Feet,** formed in the layout known as **"PRAKRUTHI PARK"** (approved from the Secretary, The Hosur New Town Development Authority, Hosur, under its Plan Approval No.6/2014, Dated 21/08/2014), being portion of the Schedule 'A' Property, (carved out of converted Survey No.1/5) situated at Kagganur Village, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, attached to Village Panchayat limits of Sevaganapalli And Union council of Hosur and bounded on the: **East by :** 30 feet Road, **West by :** Site bearing No.67, **North by :** Site bearing No.93A, **South by :** Road. There is no building in the above said plot.
5	**Mr. Mathew George (Borrower)** **Wipro Limited,** **Designation:** Project Manager **Department:** IT, **Employee No:** 83256 Gate No 10,11,12&13 Electronics City Phase-1, Hosur Main Road, Bangalore-Electronic City, Bengaluru 560100 **Mr. Mathew George (Borrower)** **Mr. Gigi Mathew (Co-Borrower)** **Both are residing at:** No 515&516, Block-PN,5th Floor, Purva Panorama - Block 5(PN) Kalena Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Tq, Bengaluru 560076	**Loan A/c Nos.** **1) 601662454 Rs.22,16,212/-** **2) 603814693 Rs. 2,32,286/-** **Total Amount Rs.24,48,498/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Eight Only) as on 30.11.2024**	02.01.2025 ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 04.03.2024**	**Schedule A :** All that property measuring One Acre Seventeen Guntas in Sy.No.22/1, Thirty Two Guntas in Sy.No.22/2, Two Acres Thirty Four Guntas in Sy.No.22/3, One Acre Fourteen Guntas in Sy.No.23, One Acre Twenty Eight Guntas in Sy.No.28/1-B, Three Acres Eight Guntas in Sy.No.29/1 and Seven Guntas in Sy.Nos.30/1, 30/2, 30/3 and 30/4, totally measuring Eleven Acres Seventeen Guntas, (This area includes 1,20,208 Sq.ft., relinquished to BDA, 16,366 Sq.ft., of land occupied by the two houses retained by the sellers, thus leaving 3,60,934 Sft for allotment of undivided share in the land) all situated in Kalena Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, vide his Orders bearing No.B.DIS.ALN.SR. (S) 156/90-91 dated 03/06/1991, No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S)159/90-91 dated 03/06/1991, No.B.DIS.ALN.SR. (S) 157/90-91 dated 03/06/1991, No.B.DIS. ALN.SR (S)244/93-94 dated 20/07/1994, No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S)158/ 90-91 dated 03/06/1991 and No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S)160/90-91 dated 03/06/1991 and bounded by: **East :** Private Property; **West :** Bannerghatta Road and Private Property; **North :** Private Property in Sy.Nos.15, 16,17 and 20; **South :** Village Road and Property in Sy.Nos.31, 29/2, 28/1A and 24. **Schedule B: 0.07th** Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in Schedule 'A' Property (approximately 264.67 Square Feet of land share). The Undivided share in the land is arrived at after providing for 1,20,208 Sft of land relinquished in favour of BDA and 16366 sft of land occupied by the two residential houses retained by the First Party as narrated below. **Schedule C: One Bedroom Apartment** bearing **No. 515** on the **Fifth Floor,** in the PN Block/Wing, of the residential complex known as **"PURVA PANORAMA"** constructed in the Schedule "A' Property, having a **super built-up area of 690 Square Feet** (i.e., built up area of 576 Square Feet and common area of 114 square feet). The walls are built out of Hollow Brick and Cement with RCC Roofing and Vitrified Flooring. It has electricity, water and sanitary connections. **Schedule A:** All that Property measuring One Acre Seventeen Guntas in Sy.No.22/1, Thirty Two Guntas in Sy.No.22/2, Two Acres Thirty Four Guntas in Sy.No.22/3, One Acre Fourteen Guntas in Sy.No.23, One Acre Twenty Eight Guntas in Sy.No.28/1-B, Three Acres Eight Guntas in Sy.No.29/1 and Seven Guntas in Sy.Nos.30/1, 30/2, 30/3 and 30/4, totally measuring Eleven Acres Seventeen Guntas, (This area includes 1,20,208 Sq.ft., relinquished to BDA, 16,366 Sq.ft., of land occupied by the two houses retained by the sellers, thus leaving 3,60,934 Sft for allotment of undivided share in the land) all situated in Kalena Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, vide his Orders bearing No.B.DIS.ALN.SR. (S) 156/90-91 dated 03/06/1991, No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S)159/90-91 dated 03/06/1991, NO.B.DIS.ALN.SR. (S) 157/90-91 dated 03/06/1991, No.B.DIS. ALN.SR (SJ244/93-94 dated 20/07/1994, No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S)158/90-91 dated 03/06/1991 and No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S)160/90-91 dated 03/06/1991 and bounded by: **East :** Private Property; **West** : Bannerghatta Read and Private Property; **North** : Private Property in Sy.Nos.15, 16, 17 and 20; **South** : Village Road and Property in Sy.Nos.31, 29/2, 28/1A and 24. **Schedule B: 0.11th** Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in Schedule 'A' Property (approximately 381.67 Square Feet of land share). The Undivided share in the land is arrived at after providing for 1,20,208 Sft of land relinquished in favour of BDA and 16366 sft of land occupied by the two residential houses retained by the First Party as narrated below. **Schedule C: One Bedroom Apartment bearing No. 516** on the **Fifth Floor, in the PN Block/Wing,** of the residential complex known as **"PURVA PANORAMA"** constructed in the Schedule 'A' Property, having a **super built-up area of 955 Square Feet** (i.e., built up area of 798 Square Feet and common area of 157 square feet) together with one covered car parking space. The walls are built out of Hollow Brick and Cement with ROC Roofing and Vitrified Flooring. It has electricity, water and sanitary connections.

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 13.01.2025
Place: Bengaluru

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

Markets may fall another 5-7%, say experts

Market recovery is expected post-budget and once US President-elect Donald Trump's policies become clearer

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

INDIA'S equity market may fall another 5-7% due to existing headwinds that have brought down the benchmarks- BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty 50- by about 10% from their all-time high levels.

Last week, the Sensex fell over 2.20% to settle at 77,379 while the Nifty plummeted 2.49% to close at 23,440.

"In the next three weeks, we have material events including the Union Budget announcement - until then, we are likely to see a 5-7% correction in the markets. A weak Budget parallel to the 2024 August budget could shock the markets. No mention of railways, infra, and defence will result in valuations of these sectors dropping to 30-40x levels," said Sreeram Ramdas- Vice President at Green Portfolio PMS.

According to Ramdas, the weakness in preliminary banking stats, sanctions on Russian oil by the US and uncertainty of US President-elect Donald Trump's attitude towards India are short-term negative sentiments driving the market. He added that clarity on Trump's tariffs on China and approach towards Indian exporters, once he takes over the chair, will provide a state of certainty to the markets.

"We expect the market to recover post the Union Budget presuming it's a growth capex titled budget," said Ramdas.

In addition to these factors, the 'expensive' Indian market is hit by a slowdown in economic growth, continuous fall in rupee and corporate earnings failing to justify valuations.

These headwinds have led to an exodus of foreign institutional investors (FIIs) from the local market who now prefer safe avenues such as US treasury yields. So far in the calendar year 2025, FIIs offloaded (net sales) shares worth ₹22,194 crore. Yashovardhan Khemka, Senior Manager - Research & Analytics at Abans Holdings said that as we enter the earnings season amid policy uncertainty, a strengthening dollar, and low GDP forecasts, selling pressure continues. "While a 5-10% correction in benchmarks seem unlikely, a 3-4% dip appears probable given the prevailing market weakness," added Khemka.

Khemka believes that market recovery is expected once Trump's policies become clearer, likely 1-2 weeks after his inauguration as President on January 20.

"First, these policies are inflationary, thus delaying interest rate cuts, thereby making US businesses more attractive to global investors. Additionally, the resulting strength of the US dollar is prompting FIIs to take profits in developing economies like India, as dollar-adjusted returns appear less favourable. Second, Trump's proposed tariffs on US imports could negatively impact Indian companies reliant on the US market, further impacting their future business forecasts," said Khemka.

Gaurav Bissa, VP, InCred Equities said that a weak banknifty has made things worse for the bulls who are left stranded after nifty and banknifty closed below their respective 200dema levels. "Going forward, 23260 (for Nifty) is likely to be a key support for the benchmark index. This was the previous swing low and if this will be sustained, the oversold momentum indicators on lower timeframes will ensure a bounce to 24000-24200 is seen in the next few days," added Bissa.

IN CONVERSATION

HS BHATIA
Managing Director, Daewoo Electronics

'PLI has encouraged contract manufacturing ecosystem in India'

DAEWOO Electronics re-entered the Indian market after a gap of 18 years in 2023. Managing director **HS Bhatia** spoke with **Dipak Mondal** on the company's plans for India. Edited excerpts:

Daewoo Electronics has entered India after a gap of 18 years. What made you re-enter India?

When we left India, Daewoo had two verticals – Daewoo Motors, Daewoo Electronics. The auto vertical no longer exists. Daewoo Electronics is alive globally. It is operating in about 110 countries, and now the brand is with POSCO, the Korean steel major. POSCO is amongst the top five conglomerates of Korea -- LG, Samsung, Hyundai and Kia being the other four. The reason for making a comeback was the attraction that the Indian market provides you. The economy is growing at 6-6.5%. We believe there will be a lot of money with the people here. And obviously people would like to elevate their living standard. They would buy a lot of appliances for comfort and convenience, and a better lifestyle. It is the middle 80% of people who are between, let's say, ₹12,000- 15,000 per month to ₹2.5 lakh per month. This is where we are targeting, and this becomes the prime reason we see business opportunities in India.

There are many established players in this space. So, how do you see the competition?

When the market is growing, there is room for everyone. Unlike Europe and the US, where the markets have reached saturation points, India is a growing market. In India, only 72% households have TV, 33% have refrigerators, only 18% own washing machines and 7% have ACs. India offers scope for inorganic growth.

How is Daewoo brand, which is known in India albeit more for Daewoo Motors than electronics, going to help you in establishing in India?

Brand is only a door opener, what you do with the brand is more important. We believe that Koreans, as a country and as a technology, are very well established in India over the last 25-30 years through brands like LG, Samsung, Kia and Hyundai. So, Koreans have a reputation, unlike the Chinese. Koreans are also known for offering value for money propositions. Their technology is as good as that of Japanese, but are always priced lower than Japanese brands.

Koreans have a reputation, unlike the Chinese. They are also known for offering value for money propositions. Their technology is as good as that of Japanese.

You plan to launch 270 products. Is there a strategy behind launching so many products?

We have divided our product portfolio into three categories. One is power and energy. Second category is electronics, and the third category is the electric cycle.

Currently, you are manufacturing through contract manufacturers. Do you have plans to set up manufacturing units here?

We need at least 2-2.5 years to set up a plant in India. By then, we would know which products of ours are selling better, and accordingly we will decide what we should manufacture in India. But more importantly, in the last 4-5 years, thanks to Make in India initiative and Production-linked Incentive Scheme, the contract manufacturing ecosystem has taken shape in India. The PLI scheme also favours large manufacturers, so it makes sense for a contract manufacturer to produce goods for multiple brands and be eligible for the incentives under PLI. Currently, 70% of our products are imported and 30% are manufactured here. In two years, the ratio would reverse.

What is your medium to long-term revenue target from India?

We should achieve ₹300 crore revenue by 2027 and ₹500 crore by 2029.

MONEY-WISE

ABOUT FRUGALITY AND FINANCIAL FREEDOM

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

I have a friend who has a net-worth in the region of ₹100 crore. Resides in a simple 2bhk in a Mumbai suburb and lives what we would call a 'frugal' life.

I would think (and say) he leads a simple and independent life and I have seen this lifestyle for the past 45 years. It has remained the same! His daughters' marriages were done in a very simple style and I dare say he must not have spent much on those events too.

Why am I saying all this?

He spends far less than what he earns and he is about 68 years of age, does not own a car and rarely takes vacations. He gives far more to charity than he spends on himself.

Typically, people get carried away when they get rich. They first go and build a house which is far bigger than a house they need. Mostly, people seek 'status' and not happiness. They buy big houses, and cars – what is called the 'show-off' assets. These assets do nothing to increase your being wealthy, but announce to the world that you have arrived! Which means these assets are not for your happiness, but to show to society. I remember my experiences -the planning, the booking, the travel, the photos…I don't remember my so-called 'things' I own. Check what you remember -things or experiences?

Why do we need big houses? Will we need it to make our armies, and servants stay there?

Do we feel more secure if we have a bigger car? Or a bigger house?

If we start looking at the price of 'things' in terms of 'time' we may act differently. Say a person about 38 years of age is considering buying a house and the house costs ₹ 1.25 crore – out of which ₹90 lakh is a loan. This means that the total cost of the house is ₹2.25 crore – if this person is earning ₹25 lakh a year, this house is worth 9 years effort! A SUV could be 2 years, a vacation 2 years etc. This sounds like if you buy this house, this decision alone pushes your retirement back by 9 years! Similarly, when you consider such 'show-off' expenses, ask yourself 'do I want this or do I want financial freedom'.

I am not saying living frugally is better or spending is better, but clearly the decision of Frugality vs Financial Independence is each and every person's individual call. It is not the business of the financial planner to decide what a person should choose.

How much money you have at the end of your life is a function of how much you earn and how well you manage your wants, and how well you manage your portfolio.

Of course, it depends on how well you control your emotions. It's just about having the right behaviour – asset allocation, patience, control over greed and fear, long-term thinking, etc.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY YOUR FUTURE INCOME IS AT RISK

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE chairman of engineering giant Larsen & Toubro, S N Subrahmanyan, raised a storm. When Infosys founder N R Narayan Murthy spoke about working 70 hours a week, social media got into a tizzy. Needless to say, the noise this time is even bigger than before. The entire discourse sounds like the two sides are merely venting out. The two sides at each other are employers and employees. While the anger among employees will gain much traction due to their sheer size and social media presence, the anger among industry leaders is poorly understood.

If people like Murthy and Subramanyan, who create many white- and blue-collar jobs in the economy through their businesses, believe that employees are not productive enough, then everyone should be worried. They sit on voluminous data on employee productivity and try to enhance employee output by bringing in new business and management strategies. If they go public with ideas like that, they see a declining employee productivity trend and cannot find a solution independently. While you may criticise their expression, it is not a good sign that they are talking like that.

If you cut through the clutter and look at data, you will realise that the future of jobs is bleak. There is a significant disruption in white-collar work as companies adopt artificial intelligence and use machines for most service-oriented jobs. In the past, technology disruptions made physical labour in farms or factories redundant.

The latest report of the World Economic Forum on the Future of Jobs comments on the situation and is enough for you to be concerned. It surveyed 1,000 leading companies worldwide across 22 industry sectors and employed over 1.4 crore workers in 55 countries, including India. It found AI and big data to be the fastest-growing skills, followed closely by networks, cybersecurity, and technology literacy. "Complementing these technology-related skills, creative thinking, resilience, flexibility and agility, along with curiosity and lifelong learning, are also expected to continue to rise in importance over the 2025-2030 period," the report said. Skills requiring manual effort, like clerical, administrative and call-centre jobs, could seem to decline.

Going forward, businesses will have to hire fewer people than before. However, they would look for employees with multiple skills. That would require them to train existing or new workforce extensively. Employers expect 39% of the core employee skills to change by 2030. For India, that number is 38%, which aligns with the world average. The report also warns about two other economic factors influencing future job creation. These include the cost of living (inflation) and economic slowdown.

If you look at how inflation has affected you over the past year, you will know that it is not going anywhere. The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee has held on to existing borrowing rates due to stubbornly high inflation. At the same time, the economy is growing slower in 2024-25 than in the previous year. If you read through the management commentary of leading consumer companies during quarterly financial results, you would know that while rural India is doing fine, there is a visible decline in spending from urban consumers.

What it means to you

Most Indian companies are already adopting artificial intelligence and other new technologies, according to the World Economic Forum survey. Your finances require you to manage your income nicely. You may want to figure out the risks to your job. Signing up to learn new skills that are relevant in the future may be a good beginning.

While you do that, you cannot take your eyes off regular investing. Inflation is likely to cause economic slowdown and hurt job creation. It is also likely to eat into your future wealth.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

CII proposes all govt approvals through national single window

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDUSTRY body Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has said for improving ease of doing business in India, all regulatory approvals – central, state and local levels -- must mandatorily be provided only through the National Single Window System (NSWS).

In a 10-point agenda for EoDB reforms, CII has said that approvals through NSWS will help in bringing about transparency and speed in the processes.

"In the first stage, this should be completed for all central ministries within the next 6th months, followed by bringing on the platform, states, in a phased manner. A dedicated central budget could be allocated for the purpose, especially from the point of view of incentivizing states to shift completely to the portal," said the industry body in a statement.

The National Single Window System, an initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade (DPIIT), is a digital platform for businesses to identify and apply for approvals according to their requirements.

It also calls for an Act that imposes statutory obligation on all public authorities for time-bound delivery of services and redressal.

The industry body has also proposed placing greater reliance on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to expedite the process of dispute resolution. For easy access to land, it suggests states may be incentivised to develop an Online Integrated Land Authority with an objective to streamline land banks, digitise & integrate land records, provide information on disputed land and guide necessary reforms.

To assist industry in land acquisition across nation, the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) can be evolved into a National Level Land Bank, with dedicated central budget support. Further, it has proposed introduction of a unified framework for streamlining environmental compliances. It also suggests implementation of the four Labour Codes.

TCS to create 25k seat capacity in Bengaluru

PTI @ Mumbai

TAPERING off in the BSNL deal expected over the next few quarters will aid TCS to expand profit margin, a senior company official has said.

The company is also looking at creating a capacity of over 25,000 seats in Bengaluru over the long term on a land parcel acquired recently, CFO Samir Seksaria said. "The same program (BSNL) as it tapers down at a portfolio level, at an overall level, there would be a benefit which would come in (on margins)," he said. On the ₹1,625-crore land buy deal from a Tata group company announced last week, he said the company is planning to put the capacity to expand in Whitefield.

AI, autonomous agents shaping future of business: Salesforce India CEO

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

SALESFORCE India Chairperson and CEO Arundhati Bhattacharya said they are glad that Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) rules are here and that they intend to be 100% compliant whatever comes out at the end. Speaking on the sidelines of the AI Pitchfield finale event hosted by Salesforce here in Bengaluru, Bhattacharya said that they would come up with responses, if any, and that it was absolutely expected. "We are glad that it is here because now we can begin to sort of get our arms around it," she said.

The draft DPDP Rules is now open to public feedback and this comes at a time when there has been an increase in the number of AI start-ups that

work on different features including voice data and integrate them from different sources. The draft Rules also stresses on protecting citizens' personal data.

Bhattacharya also spoke about the growing adoption of agentic AI in India and she said start-ups in the country will define the future of agentic AI. "At Salesforce, we've seen firsthand how AI and autonomous agents are shaping the future of business," she said, stressing on security and compliance as key concerns for companies that consider agentic AI adoption.

The US-based software vendor has been increasing its headcount in the country. The company has grown substantially in India from 2,500 people in 2020 to over 13,000 employees currently. Its India revenue crossed the $1 billion mark last year.

In September last year, Salesforce Ventures, the company's investment arm, announced a new $500 million AI fund, bringing its total commitment to AI innovators to $1 billion in the past 18 months.

Man Utd's 10-men beat Arsenal on pens in FA Cup

Ten-man Manchester United beat Arsenal 5-3 on penalties after a dramatic 1-1 draw in the FA Cup third round, while Tottenham needed extra time before seeing off non-league Tamworth 3-0 on Sunday. Defeated 2-0 by Arsenal in the Premier League in December, FA Cup holders United exacted revenge on their return to the Emirates Stadium.

CHANGE OF GUARD IN BCCI

Saikia, Prabhtej elected as cricket body's new secretary & treasurer, respectively, on Sunday

GOMESH S @ Chennai

ALTHOUGH it was only a formality going into the Special General Meeting, the confirmation of Devajit Saikia as BCCI secretary and Prabhtej Singh Bhatia as treasurer marks a significant moment in the board's administration.

Saika, who had been the joint secretary since 2022, succeeds Jay Shah, who left the job to take over as ICC Chair on December 1, 2024. Bhatia, meanwhile, would be taking up the role of Ashish Shelar, who had to step down after being sworn in as a minister in Maharashtra's cabinet last month. As for the vacancy of joint-secretary post which Saikia was holding, the BCCI will have to conduct an election in the next 45 days to fill the position.

A former first-class cricketer for Assam, Saikia had played four Ranji games for the state. Saikia's venture into sports administration started at the Gauhati Town Club (GTC) in 2003. Few years later, he became the general secretary of GTC, working alongside Himanta Biswa Sarma, the current chief minister of Assam, who was the president. An advocate himself, Saikia played a significant role in the Assam Cricket Association over the past decade. He conducted a

(From L) BCCI new treasurer Prabhtej Singh Bhatia and secretary Devajit Saikia along with president Roger Binny and vice-president Rajiv Shukla during the SGM | X

successful legal battle against financial irregularities in ACA and was eventually elected as one of the six vice-presidents when the new ACA committee was formed in 2016. He briefly resigned in 2018 before being elected as the secretary of ACA in 2019. Saikia was instrumental in the development of cricket in the region. His role in securing funds and ensuring the completion of the ACA Stadium in Barsapara is noteworthy.

"He has really worked it out from the ground level," ACA joint secretary Rajendra Singh told this daily. "He has changed the cricket in Assam, the outlook, how people used to think about cricket in Assam and how people think now. In developing facilities, providing high quality of training and whether it is physical or technical or mental, he has been working so hard. We have a residential ACA Cricket Academy. I never imagined that somebody would even think of putting a mental strengthening coach in the academy. Talent has always been there, but to grooming it in the right perspective, that actually came when Saikia became the secretary of Assam (in 2019). And that's an immense change and somebody had to kick start that. We are now kind of on the path he has laid down for Assam Cricket," Singh added. Saikia became the BCCI joint secretary in 2022 and apart from being a part of the BCCI, he has also been the Advocate General for the Government of Assam since 2021. "He is the person who was really kicked off from Assam," said Singh. "We hope the same thing will happen to Indian cricket also," he added.

In what is considered to be one of the most powerful positions in cricket administration, Saikia's biggest challenge in 2025 as BCCI secretary would be working closely with the men's selection committee and team management and ensuring that the transition happens smoothly in both the ODI and Test formats. The BCCI is set to host the Women's ODI World Cup this year as well followed by the men's T20 World Cup in 2026.

Bhatia, meanwhile, is a young entrepreneur whose family is involved in the liquor business. Son of Baldev Singh Bhatia, former president of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh who played a crucial part in the state getting full-member status with the BCCI in 2016, Prabhtej has been a BCCI apex council member in the past as well. Prabhtej will be holding an official position for the first time since 2022.

T20I SQUAD

Veteran Shami's return biggest talking point

GOMESH S @ Chennai

THE return of Mohammed Shami was the biggest highlight of India's T20I squad against England. However, there are some subtle changes from the squad that toured South Africa in November. Shami, making his international comeback for the first time since the ODI World Cup in 2023, will be auditioning for the Champions Trophy. The veteran made his comeback in the Syed Mustaq Ali Trophy and was in contention to make in squad for the conclusion of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. However, intermittent issues meant Shami was not able to make the cut in time. The Champions Trophy is followed by the IPL where Shami will play for Sunrisers Hyderabad and then there is a five-Test series in England. This series could be prove vital in determining where he stands in terms of fitness and determine the way forward for Shami in international cricket.

Eyes on Reddy

Meanwhile, the focus shifts

to the two seam-bowling all-rounders in the squad — Hardik Pandya and Nitish K Reddy. Pandya is a starter in any white-ball side but the way Reddy has evolved in the last month and a half augurs well for India.

Reddy, although coming on the back of a five-Test series, would be itching to go in the shortest format. This series and the matches going forward provides the chance to see if he can be the back-up for Pandya as the youngster continues to work on his bowling. Going forward, the two seam-bowling all-rounders could have a significant role to play in white-ball cricket for India.

Left is the new right

In what is already a top-order packed with left-handers — Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma — that India have Rinku Singh, Axar Patel and Washington Sudar in the middle adds to the intrigue. It has been the trend since 2023 and will continue to see more of. While all five might not necessarily play — Washington will have to wait for his chance — at least four of them are expected to start more often than not.

The ones to miss

From Ramandeep Singh to Vyshak Vijaykumar to Yash Dayal to Avesh Khan, a few of the members who toured to South Africa are not a part of the squad. Jitesh Sharma also is not there and seems to be replaced with Dhruv Jurel, who could be a long-term prospect. Jurel made his T20I debut in Zimbabwe last year and was a part of the Test team in Australia. However, he did not get any game time after the first Test in Perth. This could be the year that makes Jurel an international regular for India.

EXPRESS READ

IPL 2025 likely from Mar 21, WPL in Feb

CHENNAI: The 2025 edition of the Indian Premier League is expected to begin from the third weekend of March. Meanwhile the Women's Premier League is likely to be held from the first week of Feburary till early March. It could also be the year that sees the WPL tourney go to four different venues — Bengaluru, Mumbai, Lucknow and Baroda. The IPL final will be held at the Eden Gardens the home ground of KKR who won the title in 2024.

Delhi FC earn a point; big win for Churchill

MAHILPUR: A resilient Delhi FC, who were reduced to 10 men, staged a brilliant comeback to secure a 1-1 draw against Rajasthan United FC while Churchill Brothers FC Goa produced a dominant display to outplay Aizawl FC 6-0 in the I-League on Sunday. Delhi FC's Thokchom James Singh was sent off in the 68th minute after receiving his second yellow card for a foul on Gerard Artigas.

Punjab Kings name Shreyas as skipper

CHANDIGARH: India top-order batter Shreyas Iyer, who guided Kolkata Knight Riders to their IPL title triumph earlier this year, was named captain of Punjab Kings (PBKS) on Sunday ahead of the upcoming season set to begin in March. Iyer, a proven leader and one of the most sought-after players in the IPL, was roped in by PBKS for a record-breaking ₹26.75 crore, making him the second-most expensive player during the November auction.

Teenager Pretorius puts up Royals show

AGENCIES @ Paarl

LHUAN-DRE Pretorius provided South African cricket with a glimpse into the future after the rising star smashed 97 off 51 balls (10X4, 6X6) to power Paarl Royals to a nine-wicket victory over Sunrisers Eastern Cape at Boland Park on Saturday.

The 18-year-old, who is still awaiting his Matric results, was in imperious form as he shared a 132-run opening stand with former England captain Joe Root. Pretorius' power game was on full display as he pulled and drove with authority. The former SA U19 prodigy certainly benefitted from having the experienced Root at the non-striker's end on his Betway SA20 debut. Root was his customarily composed self as he steered the Royals home with an undefeated 62 off 44 balls (4x4; 1x6) after Pretorius was trapped LBW by Marco Jansen. The defending champions have

Lhuan-Dre Pretrorius smashed 97 off 51 balls to power Paarl Royals | SA20

now slumped to a second successive defeat after their opening loss to MICT at St George's Park last Thursday night. It all seemed to be going much better at the halfway interval when Sunrisers captain Aiden Markram returned to form with a classy 82 off 49 balls (7x4; 2x6).

Meanwhile, Sunday's fixture between Pretoria Capitals and Durban's Super Giants at Centurion was abandoned due to rain.

1st ODI century for Rodrigues as India seal series

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

THE moment Smriti Mandhana, India's stand-in captain in the absence of Harmanpreet Kaur, won the toss and opted to bat first at Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot against Ireland, one thing was certain. Given how the pitch performed in the first match of the series, it was certain that the second game was going to be the run-fest. The other thing, that came as a surprise, given their record since the start of 2024, was that for the first time in many fixtures, India opted to go with the same playing XI in the 50-over format.

To be clear, just a month ago, in the second ODI against West Indies in Vadodara, India went in with the same playing XI for the first time since coach Amol Muzumdar took over. Sunday was only the second instance under Muzumdar where the captain did not have to explain the changes at the time of the toss. Understandably, India would want to try as many players as possible in the home

India's Jemimah Rodrigues in the 2nd ODI against Ireland on Sunday | SPORTZPICS

World Cup coming soon and that is what they have done with enthusiasm over the past year.

Sunday was an exception to the rule when the same Mandhana-led side took the field and the players made most of their chances in the middle with both bat and ball. It started with Pratika Rawal who made her debut against West Indies late last year. The Delhi batter rose to the occasion once again to form a partnership of 150 runs with Mandhana. From the first ball she faced, the Delhi batter found her rhythm and there was no looking back. Mandhana, as she has done on numerous occasions recently, celebrated her 30th half-century in the format.

When the duo fell off two back-to-back deliveries, India were already batting with an 8-plus run rate. Once both openers were back, Jemimah Rodrigues and Harleen Deol had a platform set and just needed to keep the scoring rate going. Deol, trying to cement her role in India's batting lineup, took some time to find her feet as Rodrigues continued to challenge the Irish bowlers. It took them 75 balls to raise the partnership of 50 runs, but then they chose to change the gears. Rodrigues tried to free her arms and Deol found her groove against the young Georgina Dempsey.

Deol added a half-century and Rodrigues followed. With ten overs left in the first innings, India had 268 runs on the board, however, the duo made Ireland pay for some wayward bowling and sloppy fielding. Deol missed out on a well-deserving century, but Rodrigues kept her head down to notch her first ton for the national side and India went on to put 370 for five in the first innings — their highest in the format. Despite Christina Coulter Reilly's 80, Ireland could only post 254 for seven. But it was never going to be enough as India took the unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Brief scores: India 370/5 in 50 ovs (Rodrigues 102, Deol 89) bt Ireland 254/7 in 50 ovs (Coulter Reilly 80; Sharma 3/37)

Karun cracks fifth ton as Vidarbha enter semifinals

AGENCIES @ Vadodara

VIDARBHA outclassed Rajasthan by nine wickets, while Haryana edged out Gujarat by two wickets to move into the semifinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Sunday. In the semifinals, Haryana will be up against Karnataka on Wednesday, while Vidarbha will face Maharashtra on Thursday here.

Karun Nair continued his red-hot form, striking his fifth hundred — a whirlwind unbeaten 82-ball 122 (13x4, 5x6) — which was also his fourth ton in the last five innings.

Karun had able support from Dhruv Shorey (118 not out) as they added 200 runs for the unbroken second wicket in just over 29 overs, propelling Vidarbha past the target of 292 in 43.3 overs. The 33-year-old now has 664 runs from eight matches at an astonishing average of 664. He is now on par with former

BRIEF SCORES: Gujarat 196 in 45.2 ovs (H Patel 54; A Thakral 3/39, N Sindhu 3/40) lost to Haryana 201/8 in 44 ovs (H Rana 66; R Bishnoi 4/46). Rajasthan 291/8 in 50 ovs (K Sharma 62, S Garhwal 59; Y Thakur 4/39) lost to Vidarbha 292/1 in 43.3 ovs (K Nair 122 n.o, D Shorey 118 n.o).

Karnataka teammate Devdutt Padikkal, former Sri Lankan skipper Kumar Sangakkara and ex-South African batter Alviro Petersen as batters with four successive List A hundreds. Earlier, several Rajasthan batters made starts but none of them actually converted into a bigger score. Kartik Sharma (62), Shubham Garhwal (59) were the main run-getters.

Haryana in last four

Haryana survived a fine spell by India leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (4/46) as they made a heavy weather of the chase of a seemingly easy 197 set by Gujarat. Earlier, Hemang Patel made 54 (62b) but Anuj Thakral and Nishant Sindhu took six wickets among them equally between them to derail Gujarat.

Nat'l boxing meet: Sachin & 8 other SSCB boxers in semis

AGENCIES @ Bareilly

FORMER world youth champion Sachin Siwach and Lakshya Chahar led a dominant charge by the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) on Day 5 of the men's national boxing championship, with the unit securing nine berths in the penultimate round. Sachin delivered a flawless 5-0 victory over Himachal Pradesh's Ashish Kumar in the lightweight (55-60kg) category, while Lakshya matched the feat in the light heavyweight (75-80kg) category.

Nine SSCB representatives have booked their places in the semifinals. Joining Sachin and Chahar with wins on Saturday were Jadumani Singh Mandengbram (flyweight), Pawan Bartwal (bantamweight), Hitesh (light middleweight), Deepak (welterweight), Jugnoo (cruiserweight), Vishal (heavyweight), and Gaurav Chauhan (super heavyweight).

Ongoing HIL to act as selection trials

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

THE ongoing Hockey India League (HIL) will also act as selection trials for both the men's and women's teams ahead of the next edition of the Pro League, scheduled to be begin in Odisha in February. It is understood that both Craig Fulton (coach of the men's team) and Harendra Singh (women's team coach) are not only following the league from the stands but are also on a scouting mission of sorts to identify players who could form part of the core group for the upcoming Olympic cycle (Of course, Singh began his dual role from Sunday when the women's HIL kicked-off).

While the league restarting is good for the sport's long-term prospects in the country, one of the drawbacks is that the players in the national camp may not get too much of a holiday post the season. The HIL is scheduled to finish on February 1 but players selected for the Pro League may have to report to camp by February 4th or 5th ahead of the season-opener against Spain (men's team on 15th) and England (women's team on 15th).

The year immediately post the Olympics may not necessarily be a hectic year but there are still a couple of important tournaments for both sides. With the World Cup scheduled to be held for both men and women next year, there will be a qualification event later this year (Asia Cup). They can also qualify if they do well in the Pro League.

Hyderabad Toofans trounce Kalinga Lancers 5-1

HIL HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE

ROURKELA: Hyderabad Toofans beat Kalinga Lancers 5-1 (Gonzalo Peillat 6' & 30', Maico Casella 21', Tim Brand 47' and Arshdeep Singh 54') in the HIL clash here. Lancers got off to a dream start as they opened the scoring in the fifth minute. However, their joy was short-lived as the Toofans struck back within a minute and went on to add four more goals. ENS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Sabalenka, Zverev ace tests on opening day

AFP @ Melbourne

ARYNA Sabalenka powered past Sloane Stephens to begin her quest for a third consecutive Australian Open crown on Sunday with Alexander Zverev and Zheng Qinwen also winning as storms caused havoc on day one of the Grand Slam.

Belarusian top seed Sabalenka had a first-set wobble but was otherwise in control against 2017 US Open champion Stephens, romping home 6-3, 6-2 in 71 minutes on Rod Laver Arena. Sabalenka is aiming to become the first woman since Martina Hingis (1997-99) to win three consecutive titles at Melbourne Park.

Aryna Sabalenka hits a return against Sloane Stephens on Sunday | AFP

Men's second seed Zverev was clinical in his match against French wildcard Lucas Pouille. The German cruised home 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. Olympic champion Zheng beat Romania's 110th-ranked Anca Todoni 7-6 (3), 6-1.

Results (select, all first Rd)

Men: Casper Ruud bt Jaume Munar 6-3, 1-6, 7-5, 2-6, 6-1, Tomas Machac bt Sumit Nagal 6-3, 6-1, 7-5, Alexander Zverev bt Lucas Pouille 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. **Women:** Aryna Sabalenka bt Sloane Stephens 6-3, 6-2, Mirra Andreeva bt Marie Bouzkova 6-3, 6-3, Zheng Qinwen bt Anca Todoni 7-6 (3), 6-1.

Monday's matches (select, al Rd 1)

Men: Jannik Sinner vs Nicolas Jarry, Alexander Shevchenko vs Carlos Alcaraz. **Women:** Coco Gauff vs Sofia KeninNaomi Osaka vs Caroline Garcia.

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK

Nagal ousted

Indian interest in singles ended after Sumit Nagal after losing to Tomas Machac, seeded 26th, 6-3, 6-1, 7-5.

From poetry to food, childhood development to Japanese culture, these fascinating courses on SWAYAM are perfect for curious minds ready to explore fresh perspectives and skills

Learn something new every day

Unique courses on SWAYAM

EDUCATION goes beyond traditional classrooms, and SWAYAM exemplifies this with its array of exciting courses. Offering something for everyone, these online programmes delve into unique areas of knowledge, blending cultural heritage, practical skills, and intellectual insights. Whether you're fascinated by Assamese poetry, intrigued by Buddhist tourism, or curious about Japanese language and culture, these courses promise enriching learning experiences.

With flexible schedules and expert guidance, they cater to lifelong learners who wish to enhance their understanding of art, history, language, or personal development. Here are ten standout courses available on SWAYAM that you wouldn't want to miss.

Assamese Poetry: From Ancient to Modern Period

Prof Pranjit Bora | Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Guwahati

This course traces the journey of Assamese poetry from its folk origins to the modern era. It offers critical insights into regional literature, tracing its historical, cultural, and cosmopolitan essence through selected texts and contextual analysis.

Course begins: January 1, 2025

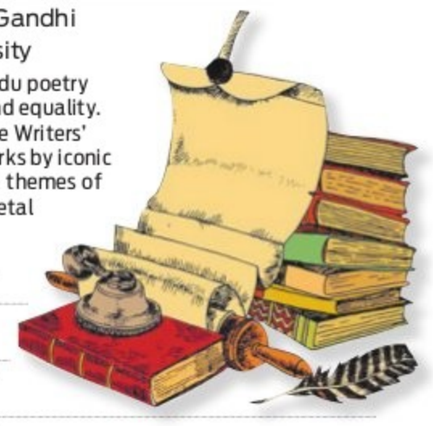
Course ends: April 30, 2025

Last date of enrollment: February 28, 2025

Exam date: May 25, 2025

Study of Urdu Progressive Poetry

Dr Liaqat Ali | Indira Gandhi National open University



Delve into revolutionary Urdu poetry inspired by social justice and equality. Learn about the Progressive Writers' Movement and analyse works by iconic poets that reflect powerful themes of reform, humanity, and societal transformation.

Course begins : January 1, 2025

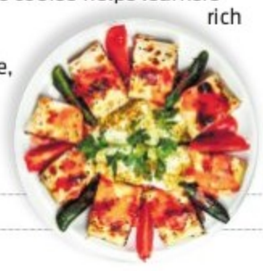
Course ends: April 30, 2025

Last date of Enrollment: February 28, 2025

Exam Date: May 17, 2025

You and Your Food

Prof Deeksha Kapur | Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi



Understand food groups, nutrient composition, and preservation techniques. This course helps learners make healthy, nutrient-rich choices while enhancing culinary skills to prepare safe, flavourful meals that retain maximum nutrition.

Course begins: January 1, 2025

Course ends: April 30, 2025

Last date of Enrollment: February 28, 2025

Exam Date: May 25, 2025

Ancient Indian Management

Dr Alka Jain | Taxila Business School

Revisit Indian management wisdom from texts like the Mahabharata and Vedas. This course offers insights into sustainable, indigenous management techniques relevant to today's corporate world, emphasising planetary well-being over consumerism.

Course: Self-paced

Buddhist Tourism

Dr Shrikant Ganvir | Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune

Discover sacred Buddhist sites, from Lumbini to Ajanta. This course explores India's rich Buddhist heritage, its historical significance, and its relevance in promoting tourism while highlighting modern opportunities in the Buddhist tourism industry.

Course begins: January 15, 2025

Course ends: April 30 2025

Last date of Enrollment: February 28, 2025

Exam Date: May 24, 2025

Childhood and Growing Up

Dr Elizabeth Kuruvilla | Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi

Gain a deeper understanding of childhood development and adolescence. This course explores the interplay of class, gender, & poverty in shaping childhood while emphasising their importance in education & learning practices.

Course begins: January 1, 2025

Course ends: April 30 2025

Last date of Enrollment: February 28, 2025

Exam Date: May 24, 2025

Introduction to Japanese Language and Culture

Prof Vatsala Misra | IIT Kanpur

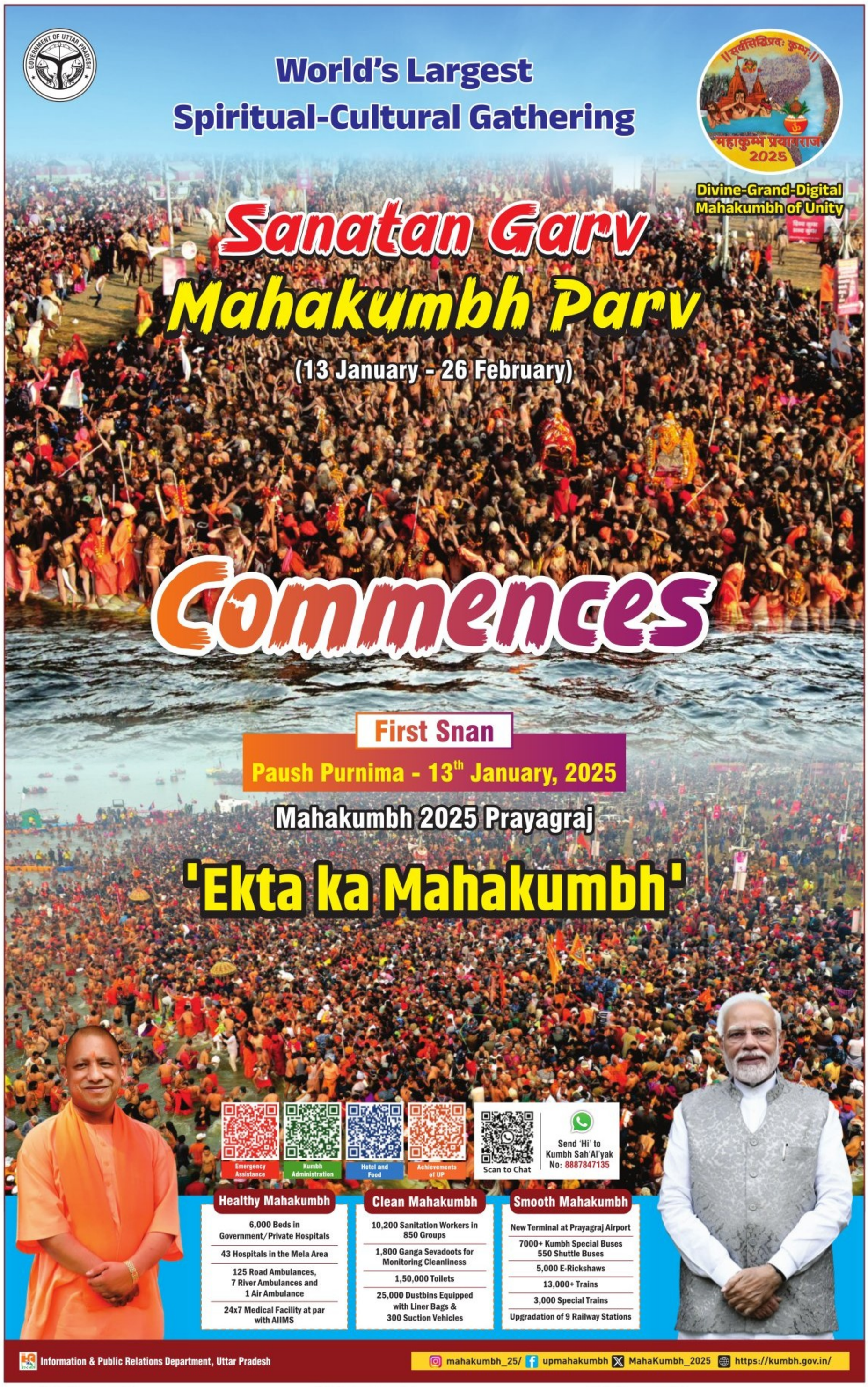
Begin your journey into Japanese culture with conversational basics, grammar, and kanji (logographic characters used in Japanese writing system). This course aligns with Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level 5, bridging cultural ties between India and Japan.

Course begins : January 20, 2025

Course ends: April 11, 2025

Last date of Enrollment: January 27, 2025

Exam Date: May 3, 2025


World's Largest
Spiritual-Cultural Gathering
Divine-Grand-Digital Mahakumbh of Unity
Sanatan Garv
Mahakumbh Parv
(13 January - 26 February)
Commences
First Snan
Paush Purnima - 13th January, 2025
Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj
'Ekta ka Mahakumbh'
Emergency Assistance
Kumbh Administration
Hotel and Food
Achievements of UP
Scan to Chat
Send 'Hi' to Kumbh Sah'Al'yak No: 8887847135
Healthy Mahakumbh
6,000 Beds in Government/Private Hospitals
43 Hospitals in the Mela Area
125 Road Ambulances, 7 River Ambulances and 1 Air Ambulance
24x7 Medical Facility at par with AIIMS
Clean Mahakumbh
10,200 Sanitation Workers in 850 Groups
1,800 Ganga Sevadoots for Monitoring Cleanliness
1,50,000 Toilets
25,000 Dustbins Equipped with Liner Bags & 300 Suction Vehicles
Smooth Mahakumbh
New Terminal at Prayagraj Airport
7000+ Kumbh Special Buses 550 Shuttle Buses
5,000 E-Rickshaws
13,000+ Trains
3,000 Special Trains
Upgradation of 9 Railway Stations
Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh
mahakumbh_25/ upmahakumbh MahaKumbh_2025 https://kumbh.gov.in/

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
Mail us: bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

13.01.2025
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Comic strip

In 1930, two newspapers in the US, the *New York Mirror* and the *Oakland Post-Enquirer*, debuted a new comic strip featuring Mickey Mouse

SLOW BUT STEADY

It was slow to gain popularity, as the strip was an ongoing story, rather than the usual practice of a gag per strip, but it became an enduring classic lasting for decades

INTEREST

The popular Mickey cartoons piqued the interest of JV Connelly of King Features Syndicate, who proposed the release of a Mickey Mouse comic strip as early as June 1929

USA AND BEYOND

The comic became a huge success in a year. By 1931, it was already being published in 40 newspapers across the US and about 20 other countries

Work-Wife Balance

PG 3

From intimate guest lists to immersive activities, this wedding season is all about redefining the way we experience weddings

Engagement planned by Sneha Chopra

KNOTTING HEARTS & STORIES

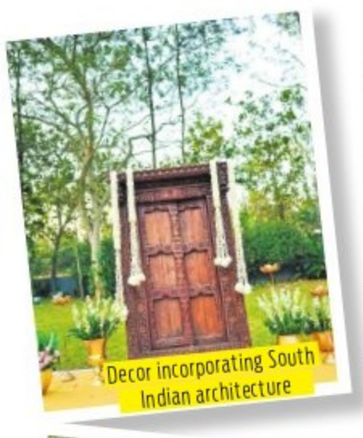
POOJA DAS

EVERY love story unfolds on its own unique timeline – a favourite song, the place where the couple first met, or even the movie they once dozed off to – can become precious memories. Each detail carries its own charm. While weddings have long been a way to honour this love, the days of one-size-fits-all ceremonies are fading. Today, couples are rewriting the rules, infusing their weddings with personal touches that tell their unique story. "Weddings are becoming very personal. They're now a storytelling experience, moving away from generic templates. Couples are much more involved and what's refreshing is that grooms are taking an active interest too," says Roxabell Gomez, owner of Elegant Weddings, a Bengaluru-based wedding planning company.

Where fairytales come alive

Elaina Pasangha and Christopher D'Souza wanted their wedding to reflect their love story and their shared journey as medical professionals. "We met in medical college, and medicine is such a big part of our story. My sister suggested incorporating elements like a stethoscope and our initials with a heart into our designs," shares Pasangha.

Held last May, the wedding featured an enchanted forest theme. "Green and white dominated the décor, and it felt magical, just as I had imagined," says Pasangha. One of the standout elements was a scroll that narrated the couple's journey – from their college days to the proposal.


Decor incorporating South Indian architecture

Wedding guest lists have become more intimate

Gomez says that it's all about paying attention to detail, recalling a wedding where the groom, an architect, collaborated on creating an art-gallery-inspired setup featuring the couple's photos and Taylor Swift lyrics, as the bride was a 'Swiftie'. "It was deeply personal and visually stunning," she says.

Intimate yet elegant

Having planned weddings for over 17 years, Gomez has seen trends evolve dramatically. "While guest lists are getting smaller, weddings are becoming much more interactive. Couples are focusing on spending quality time with their guests," she adds. "People are embracing minimalist luxury, with elegant, high-quality materials and sustainable practices.

Sneha Chopra, founder of Themed By Sneha Chopra, agrees with Gomez. "Events now focus on guest engagement with DIY concepts and curated experiences. Weddings have social media handlers, moving beyond hashtags to personalised couple pages and live updates." Trends like DIY food counters and immersive bars – tea, coffee, or even perfume-making and block-printing stations – have become popular.

Technology & sustainability

Sustainability is a key priority for couples, with innovations like plantable invitations and reusable décor elements. "We use fabric flowers and materials like wood and metal to reduce waste," says Gomez.

Technology has also become a game changer in this industry. "The pandemic transformed weddings, making them more digital and inclusive. From live-streamed ceremonies to e-invites, online shopping, and digital registries, couples now embrace technology to personalise their celebrations and connect with loved ones worldwide," Jyoti Pathania Salwan, founder of Katha Weddings.

Going back to the roots

In Bengaluru, like many cosmopolitan cities, wedding trends are influenced by a mix of regional traditions and modern influences. However, with the rise of mixed-culture weddings, planners are also seeing a shift to honouring our own heritage. "More couples are embracing Indian heritage which is a beautiful shift," says Gomez. "We incorporate South Indian architectural elements, rich colour palettes, and local floral varieties. A signature Bengaluru touch I love is the bougainvillea."

Couples are also bringing elements from other cultures. "Traditional rituals are being reimagined by meaningful new ones like handfasting ceremonies, where couples tie a symbolic knot during the ceremony, or creating memory boxes, which are sealed loved letters or mementoes to open on a future date," says Salwan.

JOLLY, AUNTY, APAN

JAPAN Habba, the annual festival celebrating Japanese culture in Bengaluru returned for its 20th edition over the weekend at Chamara Vajra, Jayamahal. Enthralled by the stellar lineup of musicians, gamers, and more, the event was replete with around 14,000 anime enthusiasts, cosplayers, and all who share a fondness for the country's culture.

PICS: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a seasoned hospitality professional with a rich background in business development, sales, and marketing with renowned hotels and F&B companies. With an unwavering passion for food, travel, and wines, he takes great delight in sharing his insights and experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,500 from Smoor Chocolates (dine-in only)**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Amazake
2) Medovukha 3) Kaffeost

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Meenakshi Iyer
2) Rama Rao
3) Karthik Gupta

CITY READ

City hairstylist among top 3 winners at national contest

Bengaluru's very own Laltlan Kimi, a hairstylist from Luv Salon featured amongst the top three winners of Godrej Professional Spotlight. The grand finale, held in Mumbai, featured talented finalists chosen from over 400+ entries across the country. Each finalist showcased curated hair colour looks inspired by the Godrej Professional's Surreal Collection on the ramp in a spectacular grand finale. Laltan Kimi participated in the grand finale event alongside 29 other finalists, showcasing her unique hair colour creation.

Sankranti Splendour

Wholesome Harvest Feast

Celebrate the essence of Sankranti with a thoughtfully curated South Indian lunch buffet at Justbe by Nidhi Nahata. Known for her commitment to healthy and soulful dining, Nahata presents a menu that combines traditional flavours with a wellness twist. From warm, spiced savouries to jaggery-laden sweet delicacies, the dishes are crafted with love to embody the spirit of Sankranti. This unique dining experience is perfect for families looking to celebrate heritage, gratitude, and community.
When: January 14
Timings: 12pm to 4pm
Price: ₹880

ASLAM GAFOOR

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based hospitality professional, food lover, and travel enthusiast)

AS winter makes way for warmer days, India gears up to celebrate Makar Sankranti, a festival that heralds the end of the winter solstice and the advent of longer days. This vibrant occasion is a time of gratitude and celebration, marked by diverse rituals, joyous gatherings, and culinary indulgence. Known by various names across the country – Lohri in Punjab, Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Uttarayan in Gujarat, and Poush Sankranti in West Bengal – this festival reflects the rich cultural diversity of India.

Makar Sankranti is synonymous with delicious culinary offerings. From the sweet notes of jaggery and sesame to hearty rice preparations, every dish tells a story of tradition and togetherness. Bengaluru's culinary scene is celebrating this season with a variety of Sankranti-inspired menus. Here's where you can indulge in the festive spirit.

A Festive Extravaganza

Shangri-La Bengaluru is hosting a two-day celebration to honour Lohri, Sankranti, and Pongal, blending the vibrant traditions of these festivals with a lavish culinary spread. At b Café, savour a festive buffet brunch featuring Sankranti favourites such as til laddoo, puran poli, and khichdi, paired with refreshing beverages like kesar badam thandai. The Lohri-inspired menu includes sarson da saag with makki di roti and chiraunji makhane ki kheer. For Pongal, Ssaffron offers a curated thali, featuring South Indian classics like ragi mudde, badanekayi gojju, and sweet treats such as sakkarai pongal and dal obbattu.

When: January 13 and 14
b Café buffet brunch: ₹2,050++
Pongal thali at Ssaffron: ₹1,400++

Traditional Delights

Chef Rajesh Roy of Quattro has created a sumptuous Pongal menu that captures the authentic essence of Tamil Nadu's harvest festival. From sweet pongal and kara pongal to regional staples like urlai Chettinad roast, karamani porial and pudalangai kotu, the menu showcases the depth and diversity of South Indian cuisine. Quattro, known for its eclectic dining experience, transforms into a haven for food lovers during Sankranti, offering a perfect blend of tradition and culinary finesse. **When:** January 14; **Timings:** 12.30pm to 3.30pm; **Price:** ₹1,099++

Sankranti Celebrations

Oota Bangalore is offering a vegetarian thali curated by Chef Dinesh Poojary. The feast begins with yellu-bella, a mixture of sesame, jaggery, roasted peanuts, and chana dal, along with yellu neeru, a sesame-jaggery cooler flavoured with cardamom. Starters include molike kalu kosambari and badanekayi bajji. For mains, enjoy jolada roti, kai chutney, steamed rice, mavinkai chitranna, and a variety of regional curries. The meal concludes with indulgent desserts like genasu payasa and sihi huggi. **When:** Till January 14 **Timings:** 12pm to 3pm **Price:** ₹950

XPRESS FOCUS

Blending Charisma, Pragmatism, and Principles: The Rise of Insights IAS

NIKHIL SANJAY-REKHA ADSULE

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's words - A Part Apart, pertain to the blend of excellence, skills, and passion. He himself, an institutional builder, tried to bring these principled systems into his established educational institutions. In this age of frenzy, education has become commercialised. It has lost the pragmatism and democratic setup which Dr. Ambedkar had expected it to be. Rarely in today's age of paradoxes, do I encounter such agencies that have a blend of all three approaches that one expects from an institution i.e. Charisma, Pragmatism, and Principled value system.

Vinay Kumar G. B aka Vinay sir, today the name is a new normal among the students in Karnataka as well as India. His charismatic persona is not just for the sake of coaxing or cajoling. Beginning from humble origins, he had the audacity to dream. Those dreams fueled his desire to become an IAS officer.

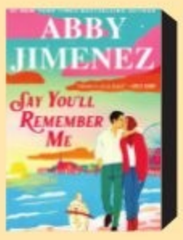
He balanced his dreams with a rational approach, clearing state exams and scoring the second-highest marks in the UPSC interview. In 2011, he dreamed bigger, believing that the lack of resources and guidance he faced shouldn't hinder others. Determined to break the classic structure of the exam, he began his journey to help students. With conviction, he started Insights IAS in Bengaluru, first online, then offline. Today, Insights IAS is a pan-India institution with branches in seven cities: Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Mysuru, Dharwad, and Srinagar. From a batch of 40 students and 5 ranks in 2014, it has guided thousands of aspirants and secured 214+ ranks in the CSE 2023.

He fused his charisma with pragmatism and principles. Drawing on the philosophy of John Dewey, who taught Dr. Ambedkar, he believed actions should be purposefully directed toward clear goals. Vinay Sir's pragmatic approach, blending mentorship with answer writing, allowed Insights IAS to carve its niche in a market dominated by flashy, traditional players. He prioritised quality over superficial business tactics, setting Insights IAS apart with its insightful approach to civil services.

Under Vinay Sir's leadership, the institution attracted top faculty and experts, supported by efficient management and staff. Insights IAS stands firmly on the principles of social and economic democracy, as Mahatma Phule envisioned—education rooted in intellect, ethics, and rationality. Today, Insights IAS is an institution that embodies both tangible and intangible progressivism in its everyday values.

(The author is an Economics Faculty member with Insights IAS)

BOOK NOOK



Say You'll Remember Me
by Abby Jimenez

A woman recovering from a broken engagement and a man with a troubled past form an unexpected connection that helps them both heal. Their journey explores love, forgiveness and the chance to create a future despite their scars.

This Cursed House
by Del Sandeen

A chilling tale about a family who moves into a seemingly perfect home, only to uncover its dark and sinister history. As supernatural forces wreak havoc, the family must confront their deepest fears to break the house's malevolent grip.

A Dark and Secret Magic
by Wallis Kinney

A gripping tale of witchcraft, family secrets and hidden power. When hedge witch Kate Goodwin discovers a mysterious tome linked to her late mother during her coven's Halloween gathering, she must navigate treacherous magic and unravel a dark legacy before it consumes her.

Heavenly Tyrant
By Xiran Jay Zhao

Power is not so easy to wield once seized, and a revolution is not so easy to control once unleashed. Zhao's second book in the series *Iron Widow* continues the heroine's quest for vengeance and revolution.

NATARAJA NRITYA

Students of BGS World School, Mahalakshmipuram Layout, perform at their annual day function | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

QUICKFIX

BOILED EGG BHURJI

INGREDIENTS

- **Ginger-garlic paste:** 1 tsp
- **Green chillies:** 2 chopped
- **Red chilli powder:** 2 tsp
- **Butter:** 1 tsp
- **Turmeric powder:** 2 tsp
- **Black pepper:** 2 tsp
- **Eggs:** 2
- **Onion:** 1, chopped
- **Salt:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Boil the eggs and chop them into cubes.
- In a pan, heat butter and fry chopped onions and green chillies. Add the rest of the ingredients, except salt and pepper.
- Add water and make a gravy. Put the eggs, black pepper, and salt.
- Simmer the water until it evaporates completely.

Contributed by **Gagan Chatterjee**, Delhi

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Bookworm Paradise

Explore a wide variety of books at the Kilo Book Fair and take home books by the kilo. Whether you're a lover of romance, fantasy, non-fiction or poetry, this event will help you find your next read.

WHEN: January 14, 10am onwards
WHERE: White House, HSR Layout
DETAILS: kilobookfair.com

MAHARASHTRIAN FEAST

Celebrate the unique Hurda harvest festival with traditional Maharashtrian dishes, including freshly harvested hurda and jowar bhakri, pithle, masala baingan, and shenga poli . Enjoy fun activities like kite flying, cricket, and tractor rides. **WHEN:** January 14, 9.30pm **WHERE:** Make My Garden, Begur **DETAILS:** makemygarden.com

Theatrical Twist

Get ready for a comedic twist on Shakespeare's classic characters, where clever improvisation brings fresh humour.

WHEN: January 14, 7.30pm
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

LOHRI CELEBRATION

Celebrate the vibrant festival of Lohri by savouring authentic festive delicacies alongside a Punjabi dhol performance and performances by folk dancers.

WHEN: January 13, 8.30pm
WHERE: Glens Bakehouse, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Mixing Flavours

Start the year with a bar takeover by Chris Hannah from Jewel of the South, New Orleans, a tavern with cocktails, food, and wine blending tradition and modern mixology.

WHEN: January 18, 8pm onwards
WHERE: ZLB23 at The Leela Palace Bengaluru, Old Airport Road
DETAILS: 96320 60433 (WhatsApp)

Festive Gathering

Celebrate the vibrant festival of Makar Sankranti with traditional festivities, kite flying, music, and much more! Enjoy the lively atmosphere and indulge in festive delicacies to mark the season.

WHEN: January 14, 6pm
WHERE: Sadhguru Sannidhi, Chikkaballapura
DETAILS: eventbrite.com

Yoga Bliss

Join this yoga workshop for beginners to discover peace and improve flexibility. Guided by experts, this session blends yoga and dance for relaxation and mindfulness.

WHEN: January 13, 6.30pm
WHERE: NewYork Dance Classes, BTM Layout
DETAILS: allevents.in

DR VIVEK ARORA

drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

My 6.5-year dog is a neutered half-stray. I cannot get her to adopt the habit of brushing teeth. If she does not have bad breath should I worry or at least call a pet service to clean her teeth twice a year?

Even without bad breath, maintaining your dog's dental health is crucial to prevent plaque buildup, gum disease, periodontal disease and other issues. It's a good idea to schedule professional cleanings twice a year, especially since your dog resists tooth brushing. Regular vet cleanings can help detect any dental problems early. If you're uncertain, it's best to ask your vet for guidance based on her specific needs. Dental cleaning can and should only be done under a professional's guidance as ultrasonic cleaning can only be done under sedation. Additionally, you could consider dental chews or water additives to support her oral health between professional cleanings.

ASK AN XPERT

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@express_bengaluru

FITBIT

SIMHASANA HANDS UNDER LEGS
(LION POSE HANDS UNDER LEGS)

This is a variation of the foundational Hatha Yoga pose, Simhasana (Lion Pose). It is a powerful and energising practice that combines breathwork with specific facial movements. Playful and fun in nature, it can be a creative addition to yoga for kids and teens. It allows you to release stress, tension, and frustration by exhaling forcefully and making either a 'roaring' or 'ha' sound. It also helps awaken and invigorate the body, increasing oxygenated blood circulation and activating the parasympathetic nervous system. This Ashtanga Yoga practice can be included for students dealing with stress or depression.

STEPS

- Sit in Vajrasana (Thunderbolt Pose), taking a few breaths here. Stretch the spine. Inhale, widen your knees apart, pointing them to the respective sides. Exhale, rotate your wrists, turn the fingertips inward toward the body, and place the palms under the thighs.
- Point your fingers backward. Press the knuckles firmly. Keep the palms grounded, chest open, elbows facing forward, and arms straight.
- Keep your back straight. Sit back on your heels, resting your buttocks on your heels. Relax your shoulders and gently drop them away from your ears.
- Begin the lion's breath practice. Take a deep breath through your nose while keeping your eyes closed. Exhale through your mouth with a loud roaring sound while sticking your tongue out and down, and gaze upward. Stretch your facial muscles as if making a terrifying lion's expression.
- After one breath cycle, close your eyes and mouth, inhale through your nose, and exhale with a smooth yet loud roaring sound. Keep your tongue out and down, with your gaze up. Produce the roar at the back of the throat and continue as long as it feels comfortable.
- Keep your palms wide and pressed throughout the practice. Draw your shoulders away from the ears, broadening through the upper back and chest. With each exhale, stick your tongue down, gaze upward, and roar long and loud like a lion.
- Repeat for at least five rounds or as per your capacity. To release, inhale and remove your palms from under your legs, placing them on your thighs. Exhale and bring the knees together.
- Finally, relax in a Child Pose variation to counterstretch the feet.

BENEFITS

- Helps strengthen the wrists, shoulders, and arms.
- Assists with carpal tunnel syndrome.
- Relieves stress, tightness, and tension in the palms, wrists, and fingers.
- Can be included in restorative yoga sequences.
- Promotes better posture and opens the chest.
- Facilitates smooth and even breathing in pranayama practice.
- Adds a joyful element to daily practice, promoting calmness.
- Releases pent-up emotions, frustration, and stress while strengthening muscles and joints.
- Encourages letting go of negative emotions and boosts vitality and confidence.
- Improves blood flow to the hands, warming muscles and ligaments, and increasing wrist joint mobility.
- Activates and stretches facial muscles, including the jaw, throat, and tongue.
- Stimulates the Throat Chakra, enhancing communication and emotional expression.
- Ideal for public speakers, teachers, actors, artistes, comedians, singers, or anyone whose lifestyle involves significant speaking or communication.
- Upward gaze awakens the Third Eye Chakra, promoting intuition and inner wisdom.
- Boosts self-confidence.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with weak wrists should practise in Vajrasana without placing hands on the floor.
- If you have any kind of injury, sit on a chair or practice in other seated poses like Padmasana.
- Avoid practising this asana if you suffer from any chronic illnesses or physical problems.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER

NATURE'S ODYSSEY

Artist Umika Mediratta Shriram brings nature to life, painting it with mood-lifting colours of red, yellow, purple, pink and orange.

FAVOURITE THREE FOLLOW UPS

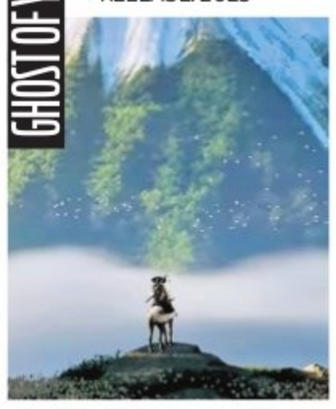
Anusha Ganapathi takes us through an array of exciting games to look out for in the new year

2025 looks a lot more different than 2024 for me — with most of the games on my 'to be played' list being big AAA titles. What are these games then?

I've played a set of incredibly unique games in the last year, and I am so excited for the year ahead. The list that follows contains three games I'm looking forward to. Don't be shy – you can try some of them even if you are very new to videogames!

GHOST OF YOTE!

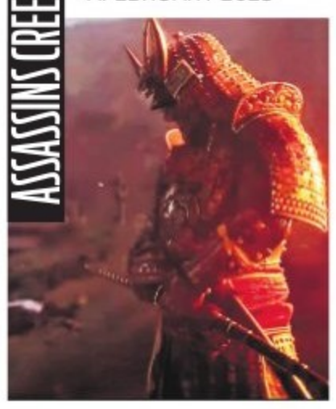
- PLAYSTATION 5
- ACTION-ADVENTURE
- RELEASE: 2025



Set in feudal Japan, this game is a sequel to the famous *Ghost of Tsushima* series. Considering how beautiful and well-structured the last game was – I am quite excited for this game. In this game, we play as a female warrior in Hokkaido, 300 years after the events of Tsushima.

ASSASSINS CREED SHADOWS

- WINDOWS, MAC, PLAYSTATION, XBOX
- ACTION-ADVENTURE, STEALTH
- RELEASE: AFEBRUARY 2025



Yet another game set in Japan – *Shadows* is set in the 1400s. *Shadows* is rumoured to be as big as earlier games like *Origins*, has eagle vision, and two character options to choose from. I've played every *Assassins Creed* game that exists – and I am quite excited for the release of this game.

GTA 6

- WINDOWS, PLAYSTATION, XBOX
- ACTION-ADVENTURE
- RELEASE: FALL 2025

I don't think any of us can truly believe that the game is expected to release next year, after years and years of waiting for it. It is set in a fictional imagination of a city in Florida (including Vice City) and follows the lives of a criminal duo. The only trailer out so far features contemporary society – with the social media apps and livestreams galore. Are you excited about this one too?

(The writer is an economics graduate, and spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

WORK-WIFE BALANCE

As the internet blows up on SN Subrahmanyan's remark on work-life balance, Bengalureans react to it

SREYA SURESH, CORPORATE EMPLOYEE

The comment by the L&T chairman about working on Sundays highlights a strong commitment to organisational goals, but in turn it also highlights the unimportance of mental wellbeing in a corporate setting. In highly competitive industries, such dedication can drive success and timely project delivery. However, it's essential to balance this drive with employee well-being to prevent burnout. As a corporate employee, I do my share of overtime but I think it is essential to balance the work life with our passion and interests. It is important for an individual to be able to prioritise the more valued aspects in their life.

ROSHAN KUMAR, STUDENT

If you paid me `500 crore a year, I'd work on Sundays too. I think it's inconsiderate to expect people to sacrifice their lives to make rich shareholders richer while undermining that they're not compensated enough for it. I would want my work to enhance my life and give me a sense of meaning; if it stops me from spending time with my spouse and kids, and doesn't allow me to take care of my health I wouldn't want to be a part of that organisation. But, on a real level, why do some CEOs/ organisations assume that employees can perform on a high level when they are chronically burnt out and neglecting all other aspects of their life? It's an extremely unhealthy and unrealistic expectation that only breeds a toxic work culture.

PRATHAPACHANDRAN PILLAI, RETIRED GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

I am totally against the comment because it leads employees to depression, distraction, and burnout, and becoming unproductive. I don't know whether the comment was made based on any proven experiment. This is an idea for fostering slavery and an act of self-centred happiness. Whether it is for profit or happiness, 90-hour work is practical but not ethical. This is because of the excess availability of well-educated and competent professionals. We can't retain deserving professionals with the organisation, which will adversely affect future growth.

RAJESH AMBOOKEN, ENTREPRENEUR

It's so unfortunate that people who are in responsible positions make such ridiculous and insensitive comments. The only thing it proves is that they do not have any understanding of the purpose of human lives and zero respect for human rights. They make statements such as their personal success is going to their head[s] and think they have the right to teach people what to do. I believe the majority of 'normal' human beings would agree that people work primarily to make a living, some to make a little more to leave for their families. Some happen to achieve a lot more probably because of their smartness, hardwork etc. But such people should not expect others to work for 18 hours for 5 days a week or close to 13 hours, 7 days a week to make their bosses richer. How foolish of a statement. I guess such brats think they look more professional and smart with their inhuman statements.

DIVYA JAIN, PSYCHOLOGIST

In my opinion, working 90 hours weekly, including Sundays, can have a high impact on your physical and mental health. However, being in this field for almost a decade and a half, my understanding of the human mind and body connection, I gather that what you feed your mind is what you get as a result. Meaning, the number of hours you are working would make less difference comparatively, if you are extremely passionate about what you are doing, and it doesn't feel like a job for you. On the other hand, if there is no work-life balance for individuals who are here to fulfil their responsibilities and have no other source of survival but to do a job, it's highly likely to impact their mental health. Which could include individuals experiencing burnouts, extreme levels of stress which could further trigger one's confidence level, decline in productivity, focus and concentration, increased irritability and frustration, and eventually disconnect with self, others and work.

GAYATHRI M KURUP

A storm of reactions erupted as Larsen & Toubro's chairman SN Subrahmanyan raved about his idea of an ideal work culture. Remarks like 'If I can make you work on Sundays, I will be more happy' and 'How long can you stare at your wife' are stirring up the internet. These remarks have sparked a burst of discussions and dissections, leading to countless comments, shares, reaction videos, and reposts. Celebrities, including Bengaluru girl Deepika Padukone, have also weighed in on the conversation; but what do the people of Bengaluru have to say about it?

Artists weigh in on navigating adherence to tradition and reflecting societal changes amidst the controversy surrounding the exclusion of the character Vavara, Lord Ayyappa's Muslim friend, in recent Yakshagana melas

Beyond Differences?

ANJALI RAM

ART, in all forms, has always served as a conduit to communicate the unsaid, transcending to a world that is beyond mundanity. Be it any culture or place, the power of art to influence, entertain and inspire is well-known; Karnataka's very own Yakshagana – a time-honoured theatrical dance-art form performed for ages, is no exception. Recently, a few Yakshagana mela deciding to exclude Vavara, a Muslim companion of Ayyappa's from the forthcoming Ayyappa Prasangas, after a Baroda-based Yakshagana patron's criticism of the glorification of Vavara with god-like attributes in Ayyappa Prasangas.

In a society with myriad cultures, this raises the question: should art be a reflection of societal changes or stay within the sphere of tradition? According to senior Yakshagana artiste Radhakrishna Urala, while many folk art forms were eclipsed as they were not open to changes, Yakshagana has witnessed an array of characters representing other faiths in the past.

"Characters like Vavara were added in Yakshagana for entertainment purposes. Even in Shaneeshwara Mahathme, a horse seller character was represented as an Arab even though there was no Muslim community during that time," says Urala. However, with time these additions have become more contentious. "Earlier, all audiences took Yakshagana as a medium for entertainment and there was nothing religious about it. These days, everything has become religious and that affects art. If one aims to purposefully hurt someone's sentiments using art, that is unfair, otherwise, art should be taken as art. And we should be open-minded towards it," adds Urala.

Abhishek Iyengar, co-founder of WeMove Theatre, says art should be beyond religious barriers, expressing concern about artistic freedom. "The state is known for Yakshagana and it has a global reach. Such controversies create a ripple effect – if the art form gets affected here as it will be affected everywhere. If this continues, artistes will have to worry about telling any story," Iyengar says.

Any work of art bears the artist's vision. But often, when weighed on a scale of tradition, its power to entertain gets narrowed. Madhumitha Ravindra, a young professional dancer talks about the challenges traditional art forms face with modernisation and art's power in transcending borders: "When a religious concept of a different faith is incorporated into this traditional recital, it raises a question of its authenticity and the necessity of it in the story due to which it gets disposed of. But in today's world, there are a lot of things that are encouraged. Recently, I saw a Bharatanatyam recital where they had a Keerthana or Krithi on Jesus, for a Rangapravesha. In that way, art transcends the borders," she stated.

Emerging Yakshagana artiste and critic Prithvi Prasad echoes this opinion, unequivocally affirming how religion does not matter: "The low religious tolerance in the country and the biased portrayal of the artiste in performing each character is what brings controversy to it, otherwise the whole essence of Yakshagana comes from roots of tolerance and harmlessness and that is how it was portrayed realistically since ages," says Prasad.

Radhakrishna Urala (left); Abhishek Iyengar

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

AFFIDAVIT

I, **P. S. PURVAJA (PURVAJA PERAM SEKAR) D/o Mr. V. SEKAR** aged about 17 years, residing at Flat No. 403, 4th Floor, No. 45, BALAJI RESIDENCY 13th Cross, 10th Main, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003, state that in my School Records, Birth Certificate and Other Documents my Name is Registered as **P. S. PURVAJA.** Henceforth in future for all the purposes I will use my name as **PURVAJA PERAM SEKAR** instead of **P. S. PURVAJA.** I state and declare that both the names refer to one and the same person. Changed vide affidavit dated 10/01/2025 & sworn before Advocate & Notary **K. V. Bachi Reddy** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **TEJASHWINI** W/o **G.N.Prakash** aged about 36 years R/at No.241, 11th ward, Darmarayaswamy Temple Street, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District- 562135 have changed my name to **TEJASWINI** vide affidavit dated: 9/1/2025 Before Notary **A.Narayanaswamy** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I,**Mrs. Seethalakshmi R S** W/o Mr. Ravi S. Aged About: 45 Years, Presently Residing at #20, "Krishnasiri", 1st Cross, Suvarna Nagar, Doddabidarakallu, Near Suvarna Nagara Bus Stop, Bangalore North, Nagasandra Post, Karnataka-560073, I declare that, **Seethalakshmi R.S** (After Marriage) and **Seethalakshmi K** (Before Marriage) and also **Seethalakshmi,** all are one and the Same and it's me only. I declare that, I will continue my name as **Mrs.Seethalakshmi R.S** in all my future documents/records., vide affidavit dated 31/12/2024 sworn to before V.Anjanappa Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I,**DEVULAPALLI SRIVATSALA,** W/o V V A V SeshagiriRao, residing at No.16-4-11, 7th Cross, Near Chikkalasandra BusStand, Hanumagiri Lay out, Chikkalasandra, Subramanyapura Post, Bengaluru-560061, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that my name is changed from **DEVULAPALLI SRIVATSALA** to **VEMPARALA SRIVATSALA** vide affidavit dated 11-01-2025 sworn before notary H G Padmanabha Rao, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I,**Annamma Mathew W/o T.J Thomas,** residing at No.1756, 3rd Cross, Railway Parallel Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560060. hereby state that I have changed my name from **"Annamma Mathew"** to **"Annamma Thomas"**. Vide Affidavit dated **10.01.2025**, before **RAVI, B.A, LL.B.,** Advocate & Notary, No. 2663/J, 6th 'B' Main, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **G.N. PRAKASH** S/o **NANJAPPA** aged about 50 years R/at No.241, 11th ward, Darmarayaswamy Temple Street, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District- 562135 In My Passport my wife's name is wrongly mentioned as **THEJASWINI** instead of **TEJASWINI** My wife's Correct Name is **TEJASWINI** only. vide affidavit dated: 9/1/2025 Before Notary **A.Narayanaswamy** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sadananda Pai, S/o. Gopal Krishna Panduranga Pai, R/at # 833/C, 4th Cross, 11th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru 560072, Karnataka, India. I have changed my name from **'Sadanand Gopalkrishna Pai'** to **'Sadananda Pai'**. Vide affidavit dated 10.01.2025 sworn before advocate and notary H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I **PADMANAGESH** (New Name) aged about 47 years residing at No. 1287, 14th Cross, Girinagar 2nd Stage, B.S.K. 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085 have changed my name from **PADMAJA B N** (Old Name) to **PADMANAGESH** (New Name) vide affidavit dated on 12th January 2025. Sworn before Notary S.N. Madhu, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAVITHA KUMARI HOLLA w/o Padmanabha Holla, aged about 50 years, residing at No. 28, Vismaya, Utopia Layout, Tharabanahalli,Bengaluru-562157, Karnataka, changed my name to SAVITHA HOLLA, vide affidavit dated 10-01-2025 sworn before Notary Chandrakala. B, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VARSHA SANTOSH PUTHANE,** W/o Santosh Madhukar Puthane,, age 44 years, R/at B31, Devina KPT Sristi apt, No.46, Kamalanagar, Bangalore-560079 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **VARSHA SANTOSH PUTHANE** and **VARSHA PUTHANE** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 09-01-2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **RATNA .N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHAWNA HARSHA , W/o.Harsha M R, Residing at No.171, 31st Cross, 11th Main, Near BES College, 4th Block, East Jayanagar, Benglauru-560 011.do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **BHAWNA ASHOK KUMAR TO BHAWNA HARSHA,**. vide affidavit dated 10/01/2025 sworn before advocate & Notary Ravi ,Bengaluru.

SMART ADS

TOURS

07/01/2025, 12/03/2025, 09/04/2025 Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand 7/11 days

11/02/2025, 18/03/2025, 13/04/2025 Srilank 7 days

11/02/2025, 05/03/2025, Gujarat 8 days

07/02/2025, 13/03/2025 Ujjain-Omkareshwara 4 Days

20/02/25, 18/03/2025 Rajastan 9 days

10/03/2025, 17/03/2025 Kashi Gaya, Ayodhya 4/7 days

23/02/2025, 20/03/2025 Puri, Bhubaneshwara 4 days

07/02/2025, 17/03/2025, Madhya Pradesh 10 Days

07/02/2025, 16/02/2025, 11/03/2025 North East Tour 6/9 Days.

JAIN TRAVELS
Malleshwaram, Bangalore-03.
9448402248, 7022547922

CHANGE OF NAME

I MUTHASHIM HUSSAIN S/O Musthaq Hussain, aged about 18 years, residing at No. 49, Kushal Layout, Kaggadasapura, 2nd Stage, C V Raman Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560093, changed my name to M MUTHASHIM HUSSAIN, vide affidavit no. IN-KA20485237110411X dated 11-01-2025 sworn before Notary N. Nagappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUSHAKA RAJ MOHAN,** W/o Sri Raj Mohan Vijaykumar, aged about 32 years, R/at No. 80, Shyam Vilas, 7th Cross Road, Malagala Main Road, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560072, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUSHAKA PRATHAP** to **SUSHAKA RAJ MOHAN** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUSHAKA RAJ MOHAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 09/01/2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **ARAVIND PATIL .G.G** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **REKHA RAVEENDRARAJ NADAGOUD** , W/o.Raveendra Raj, age about 49 years, Residing at No.H-003, Sri Ram Adithya Apartment, Naidu Layout, Chikkalasandra, Subramanyapura Post, Benglauru-61. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **REKHA NADAGOUD TO REKHA RAVEENDRARAJ NADAGOUD,**. vide affidavit dated 10/01/2025 sworn before advocate & NotaryRavi,Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **TEJASWINI** W/o **G.N. Prakash** aged about 36 years R/at No.241, 11th ward, Darmarayaswamy Temple Street, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District- 562135 In My Passport my husband's name is wrongly mentioned as **N.PRAKASH** instead of **G.N.PRAKASH** My husband's Correct Name is **G.N.PRAKASH** only. vide affidavit dated: 9/1/2025 Before Notary **A.Narayanaswamy** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **LUCY SERA BASTIAN** and **LUCY SERA,** W/o Zacarias Victor D Souza, residing at No. 154/6, Prem Kamal Residency, Near Villa Tree, 8th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 095 have changed my name to **LUCY BASTIAN** alias **D SOUZSA OR DESOUZA,** vide affidavit dated 09.01.2025, before Notary **S. Samuel Solomon,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **CHANCHAL MALHOTRA,** Resident of Sampoorna - 4, No. 65, S-5, 5th Cross Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my minor daughter's name from **LAKSHIKA** to **LAKSHIKA BABBAR** vide affidavit dated 10.01.2025 sworn to before S. Eswara Reddy, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **N.PRAKASH** S/o **NANJAPPA** aged about 50 years R/at No.241, 11th ward, Darmarayaswamy Temple Street, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District- 562135 have changed my name to **G.N.PRAKASH** vide affidavit dated: 9/1/2025 Before Notary **A.Narayanaswamy** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHREYASWINI VASU,** R/at No. 1778, 2nd Cross, BCCHS Layout, Vajaahalli, Off Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru-62 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHREYASWINI JATHA VASU** to **SHREYASWINI VASU,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHREYASWINI VASU** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 9th January 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ARAVIND PATIL .G.G** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Pinky**, W/o. Hemandra, R/at No. 38, Surya Kanta Building, 2nd Floor, M.R. Lane, Police Road Cross, Mahavarthipet, Chickpet, Bangalore - 560 053, do hereby declare that **Pinky, Pinky .H. Shah** and **Pinki Mahendrakumar Parekh** is one and the same person. Vide affidavit dated 03.01.2025 sworn to before V. Rajashekhara, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

For **SMART ADS** & THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

Team Sanju Weds Geetha 2

Sanju Weds Geetha 2 gets a new release date

CE FEATURES

NAGASHEKAR'S directorial, *Sanju Weds Geetha 2* has had its release date pushed back to January 17, 2025, following a court order. Originally set to release on January 10, the film faced a delay after a Hyderabad court issued a stay order, which has now been lifted.

The romantic drama, directed by Nagashekar and produced by Chalavadi Kumar, stars Srinagara Kitty and Rachita Ram in lead roles. With music by Sridhar Sambhram, the film blends elements of romance, comedy, and drama, and promises to captivate audiences. The legal hurdle stemmed from claims made by Telugu producer Rama Rao Chintapalli, who alleged prior commitments regarding the film's release.

In a statement after the court vacated the stay order, the producers confirmed the new release date. "We are pleased to announce that *Sanju Weds Geetha 2* will now be released on January 17. The legal matter has been resolved, and we are excited to bring the film to the audiences," said Chalavadi Kumar, the producer of the film.

The legal dispute originated from Chintapalli's claim as a producer of Gurthunda Seethakalam (2022), a Telugu remake of the Kannada film Love Mocktail. Directed by Nagashekar, who also worked on the Telugu version, the dispute raised concerns regarding his involvement in multiple projects across industries. Nagashekar had earlier clarified that the film is not a sequel to his 2011 feature *Sanju Weds Geetha*, which starred Srinagara Kitty and Ramya.

Chalavadi Kumar elaborated on the issue, explaining, "While Nagashekar directed *Sanju Weds Geetha 2*, I am the film producer under my banner, Pavithra International Movie Makers. After a series of legal proceedings, the court has cleared the way for our film's release."

The story of *Sanju Weds Geetha 2* revolves around the life of a silk farmer, and the film includes special appearances by Chetan Chandra and Ragini Dwivedi. The film has action scenes choreographed by Different Danny and cinematography by Sathya Hegde.

A still from the film

A SHARADHAA

NO FILM IS BETTER THAN A BAD FILM: RAJANI BHARADWAJ

RAJANI Bharadwaj, the emerging talent from Mysuru, has steadily built a name for herself in the Kannada film industry, beginning her journey before the pandemic. Her debut came with SD Aravind's *Mataash*, marking her entry into the silver screen. She followed up with roles in Raana alongside Shreyas Manju. She has completed shooting for *Kamaratu Check Post 2*, and the upcoming *GST* with Srujan Lokesh. But it's her latest outing, *Choo Mantar*, starring Sharan along with other actors, that has brought her excitement, as it brings together an ensemble cast.

"My career in Sandalwood started before the pre-COVID era, and after doing a few films, *Choo Mantar* became my first multistarrer," Rajani shares. She acknowledges the challenges of carving out a space for herself in a competitive industry but is determined to create a unique identity. "There's definitely competition, but I'm trying to find my own path," she admits. "It's taking time, but I'm getting offers. I'm being selective because the scripts need to impress me. I wouldn't say I'm experienced enough to judge every project, but if the script isn't right, no matter how great the actors are, it's still not the right film for me. In my opinion, no film is better than a bad film," she says.

Despite her growing presence in the industry, Rajani feels she hasn't yet had her big break. "I'm still looking for that one role that will truly push me into the limelight," she says. Even so, the actor remains grounded, focusing on quality rather than quantity. "Post the release of *Choo Mantar*, I've been visiting theatres with the cast, meeting audiences. Many of them have told me they want to see more of me, that I have an 'atypical' face, which they find interesting. It's encouraging to hear that from the audience," she says.

Though she has made strides in her career, Rajani is not one to be easily swayed by offers. "Being a Mysuru girl, I prioritise Kannada cinema, and I'm open to diverse roles. I love comedy—it's something I truly enjoy. However, romantic roles are still a bit challenging for me. I think they require more effort, but I'm open to learning," she says. Rajani is also candid about her expectations for the industry. "Directors in Kannada cinema should encourage local talents. If an opportunity comes, I can showcase my skills. I've met many filmmakers who say, 'You're in my mind,' but then someone else gets the role. However, I'll continue to push forward," she reflects.

Rajani's journey as an actor has been defined by persistence, and she's clear about her aspirations: to be recognised not just for her looks but for her acting skills as well. "I don't want to be considered just for my appearance. I want to prove that I have the acting chops to take on a variety of roles. I'm committed to giving my best and pushing the boundaries of my craft," she says.

As she prepares for her upcoming releases, including *Kamaratu* and *GST*, Rajani is looking forward to the opportunities ahead. "I hope these projects give me the chance to showcase my versatility. With *GST* in particular, I'm eager to show the industry the full range of my talent," she concludes.

The actor shares her thoughts on how filmmakers should support local talent and recognise her for her acting chops

There's definitely competition, but I'm trying to find my own path
- Rajani Bharadwaj, actor

Raju James Bond set for release in Kannada and Hindi

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Gurunandan, noted for his role in *First Rank Raju*, is back with a comedy-thriller, in his next *Raju James Bond*. Directed by Deepak Madhuvanahalli, the film will join the slew of films to hit theaters on February 14, 2025, and will be released simultaneously in both Kannada and Hindi.Online movie streaming services

Produced by Karma Bros under the banner of Manjunath Vishwakarma and Kiran Bharthur, *Raju James Bond* is set for a global release across countries, including the US, UK, Canada, Australia, and more. "The film's international appeal is amplified with the Hindi-dubbed version, including Hindi versions of the songs, making it accessible to a broader audience," says the director.

Speaking at the unveiling of the second song, 'Kanmani', producer Kiran Bharthur confirmed the film's dual-language release and shared, "We've ensured that *Raju James Bond* has been properly dubbed in Hindi, with songs recorded by Hindi singers. Additionally, we are in discussion to release in Nepali, and we've sold the rights for release in North India."

The film, originally delayed due to the pandemic, promises a fresh, laughter-filled experience. With a runtime of 136 minutes, the makers guarantee at least 40 minutes of pure comedy. The ensemble cast includes Sadhu Kokila, Chikkanna, Mridula, Ravishankar, Achyuth Kumar, and Jai Jagadeesh. Anoop Seelin has composed the music for the film, which is expected to deliver both laughter and great tunes.

Apart from *Raju James Bond*, Gurunandan has *Forest and Happy Ending* lined up for release. He is also working on his debut production, *Mr. Jack*, under his home banner, Mandi Mane Talkies.

Deepak Madhuvanahalli

A still from the film

Half of the earnings from *Eddelu Manjunatha 2* to go to Guruprasad's daughter

CE FEATURES

EDDELU Manjunatha 2, the final film of the late director Guruprasad, will be released on February 21, 2025. Written and directed by Guruprasad, and starring him, the film is a crime comedy also featuring actor Rachitha Mahalakshmi. Guruprasad passed away tragically at the age of 52 in November 2024, leaving behind a legacy of memorable films such as Mata and Eddelu Manjunatha.

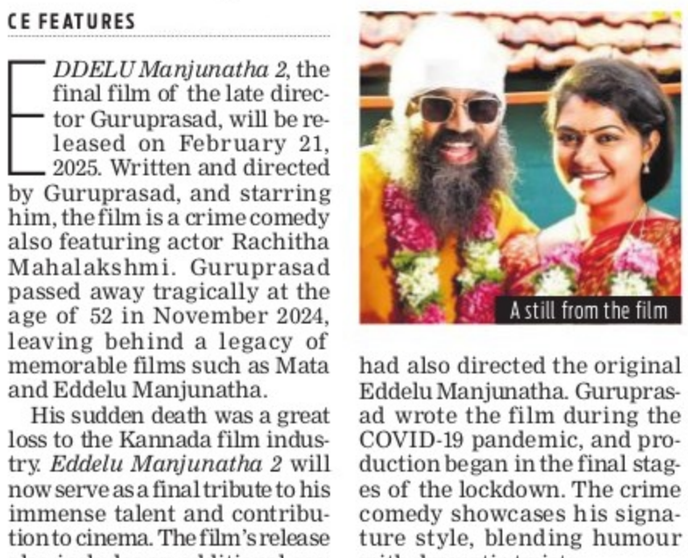
His sudden death was a great loss to the Kannada film industry. *Eddelu Manjunatha 2* will now serve as a final tribute to his immense talent and contribution to cinema. The film's release also includes an additional gesture to honour Guruprasad's memory. A behind-the-scenes video will be shared, offering fans a glimpse into the making of the film and Guruprasad's dedication to the project.

Producer Mysore Ramesh has announced that half of the film's earnings will go to Guruprasad's daughter, Nagu Sharma, as a tribute to the late filmmaker.

Eddelu Manjunatha 2 holds special significance as it marks Guruprasad's final project. He had also directed the original Eddelu Manjunatha. Guruprasad wrote the film during the COVID-19 pandemic, and production began in the final stages of the lockdown. The crime comedy showcases his signature style, blending humour with dramatic twists.

The makers have also released a soulful song, 'Kittoda Prema', with lyrics written by Guruprasad himself. Sung by Naveen Sajju and composed by Anoop Seelin, the track is already receiving positive attention.

Eddelu Manjunatha 2 reunites director Guruprasad with his Ranganayaka star Rachitha Mahalakshmi. Other notable actors in the film include Sharath Lohitashwa and Ravi Dikshit. Anoop Seelin provides the music for *Eddelu Manjunatha 2*.



A still from the film

Team Eddelu Manjunatha 2

A poignant study on the confluence of love and darkness

RATING 3.5/5

PRASHANTH VALLAVAN

CAN love truly triumph over darkness? Does evil emerge out of our own dark depths or is it external? With such powerful, poignant questions, *Nosferatu* is a melancholic examination of the never-ending battle between love and inner darkness. Metaphors are tricky, especially in a genre like horror. A horror film could lose its way by being indulgent in its themes or become superficial with its reliance on genre conventions. However, *Nosferatu* remains true to its gothic horror roots, serving up the inexorable allure of the macabre and its meditations on the psychology of love and internal darkness, in equal measures.

Ellen (Lily-Rose Depp) is a young woman coveted by an ancient demonic entity, Count Orlok/*Nosferatu*. Throughout the film, we see her go through exorbitant levels of psychological and physical torment, her loved ones facing death and worse, and even the end of the entire world, as she refuses the call of Orlok to join her. It is interesting to ponder upon how even an agent of darkness cites love as a reason to unleash terror. As she recounts her earliest encounter with *Nosferatu*, Ellen, overcome with guilt, remembers how she essentially summoned *Nosferatu* as a young girl, in her pursuit of love and affection. More than once, Ellen questions her own nature. She is not sure if the darkness that compelled her to reach out for *Nosferatu*, in desperation for love, is her own nature, or if it is a manipulation of evil beyond her. Her internal struggle reflects how any attempt to move from a toxic past is constantly fettered by extreme guilt or self-reproach.

NOSFERATU

Director: Robert Eggers

Cast: Bill Skarsgard, Nicholas Hoult, Lily-Rose Depp, Willem Dafoe

Nosferatu is a perfect example of how horror has more to offer than fear and dread to its audience. Even with tastefully crafted visuals and brilliantly orchestrated scenes, we hardly flinch. However, we completely grasp the slow decay of sanity, relentless torment, despair, and mortal fear that the characters go through. Nicholas Hoult as Thomas Hutter and Lily-Rose Depp as Ellen Hutter, perfectly capture how bone-chillingly terrifying it must be to go through the things their characters go through. The sequence where Thomas Hutter first encounters Count Orlok is a sublime confluence of several filmmaking skills. Structured to play out like a nightmare, the scenes glide into each other like how lapses in time feel like in a dream. The way the film captures the true darkness of a moonlit, 19th-century night, and how the raw flame of fireplace and candles is captured as a warm glow in the faces of characters not afflicted by the madness of *Nosferatu*, renders it a painting-like quality.

Even with its metaphorical richness, *Nosferatu* never looks down on its genre. It serves up every ounce of conviction it has towards the genre, and its supernatural elements, without being dismissive of it or feeling compelled to include 21st-century rationalism or sensibilities. In that, it echoes the earnestness of its original, FW Murnau's 1922 silent era classic of the same name. Drenched in romanticism for the macabre, *Nosferatu* works best as a poignant story about the battle between love and darkness. Ironically, darkness wages war with its own twisted form of love, lust, and affection, which the film makes apparent is but a form of evil manipulation. The film leaves us with a haunting final frame, a gory work of art. It feels like a poignant painting of a battlefield, after a night of battle between light and darkness. It reads like an extension of the film's own caption, "Succumb to darkness." Evidently, the final few moments tell us how darkness succumbs to love instead.